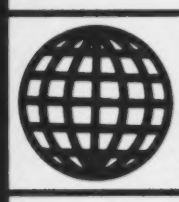

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Daily Report

Latin America

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Wednesday
14 February 1990

Daily Report
Latin America

FBIS-LAT-90-031 *14 February 1990*

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Preparations for Upcoming Drug Summit Continue

Security Tightens

PA1302151190 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1240 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] Barranquilla—The final countdown for the drug summit, which will be held in Cartagena on Thursday, 15 February, continues. Preparations throughout Barranquilla, and specifically in Cartagena, continue for the arrival of U.S. President George Bush, who will attend the 15 February summit.

Approximately 600 Atlantic Police members will form a security ring around U.S. President Bush. The ring will consist of police members belonging to the Colombian counterguerrilla group and U.S. security officials. These men will be under the orders of Commander Luis Enrico Montenegro Rinco.

Approximately 2,500 Colombian Armed Forces members are responsible for guaranteeing tranquility on Thursday in Barranquilla and nearby areas, when U.S. President Bush arrives in our country. Similarly, there will be permanent patrol operations in the northern part of Barranquilla on the same day, conducted by 28 A-37 planes available to the air command stationed in Malambo Municipality on the Atlantic coast.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Good morning, Colonel Gustavo Socha Salamanca, who is the subcommander of the Atlantic Police. Are all security measures in place for U.S. President Bush's arrival on 15 February?

[Socha] Yes, the Atlantic section of the National Police has adopted all necessary preventive measures to guarantee the life and honor of the U.S. President and his entire delegation, as well as the normal progression of the summit activities within this department. Along with the 2d Brigade, we formulated a special plan to this effect. [end recording]

Only four people will greet President George Bush: the governor of the department, the city mayor, the Barranquilla police commander, and the commander of the 2d Brigade stationed in Barranquilla.

Foreign reporters will see a Cartagena carnival show in Rooms One and Two of the Ernesto Cortizo International Airport in Cartagena. There will also be an artisan show and an industrial show sponsored by the Barranquilla Chamber of Commerce. Foreign reporters will also have a chance to try Colombian coffee.

The police have already started taking extreme precautions at the various security checkpoints established on all Cartagena roads this morning. Surveillance at the Ernesto Cortizo International Airport Immigration Office and at the various Cartagena hotels and guesthouses is very tight.

Joint Naval Maneuvers Scheduled

PA1302190390 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1740 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] Only 46 hours away from the beginning of the Cartagena drug summit, all military and journalistic preparations are ready to protect and cover the presidential summit of U.S., Colombian, Peruvian, and Bolivian Presidents George Bush, Virgilio Barco, Alan Garcia, and Jaime Paz Zamora, respectively. Approximately 5,000 soldiers will guard the heroic city of Cartagena, and some 2,500 reporters will cover the event.

Described as a man who will pay a visit to hell to further the struggle against drug trafficking, President George Bush will be awaited by a crowd of journalists in Cartagena 15 February. Among tight security measures and heavy military movement in all areas close to Manzanillo Island, President Bush will cloister himself in the Cartagena house for distinguished guests. There, Bush will hold a four-hour meeting with his Colombian, Peruvian, and Bolivian counterparts to discuss the difficult drug trafficking problem. Bush will not leave the fortress of the house for distinguished guests, to which only 100 of the 2,000 accredited newsmen from all over the world will have access.

For his part, Colombian Defense Minister General Oscar Botero confirmed the presence of a U.S. helicopter carrier near Cartagena Bay. The ship will conduct joint security maneuvers with the Colombian Navy. Minister Botero said the Colombian authorities have total and exclusive responsibility over the security of all the presidents participating in the drug summit. He added that the Colombian military and police authorities will guard every step that the Colombian, U.S., Peruvian, and Bolivian presidents make during the summit. Gen. Botero guaranteed that the summit will proceed uneventfully.

[Begin Botero recording] The Colombian Government and its military authorities are totally responsible for the security of the presidential summit. [end recording]

Botero said that the helicopter carrier will be used by President Bush to approach the Colombian coast and to move between Barranquilla and Cartagena.

[Begin Botero recording] The helicopter carrier is outside Colombian territorial waters. Its primary function will be to serve as a means of logistical support for President Bush's transfers between Barranquilla and Cartagena. The helicopter carrier is located next to a Colombian corvette. All this was previously arranged by the authorities concerned. [end recording]

Paper Cited on Londono, Figueredo Statements

PA1002192790 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1423 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] Caracas, 10 Feb (DPA)—Colombian Foreign Minister Julio Londono Paredes said today that it is very

hard to think of some important breakthrough in the fight against drugs "when, at the same time, the international coffee agreement collapses and tariffs and obstacles are raised against our nations' export products."

In an interview published today by the Venezuelan daily newspaper EL NACIONAL, Londono noted that the anti-drug summit scheduled to be held in Cartagena next week is important in that the international community and several countries, particularly the United States, have begun to realize that "the drug problem is universal."

"It is important that the United States, which was declaring us solely and exclusively responsible for these problems only four years ago, be represented by its president at a meeting with his Colombian, Peruvian, and Bolivian counterparts, and thus properly assume its role as coparticipant and a party jointly responsible in this matter," he said.

In reply to a question as to what will happen with the good-neighbor committees in his country after he steps down in the face of the change in administration in Colombia, Londono said:

"The Colombian commission—and I know the Venezuelan commission is as well—is multipartisan. I know it includes representatives from the Liberal Party and its various factions, from the Conservative Party, and from the Patriotic Union. It is a national, not partisan, commission, and therefore, since we have presented some achievements to the two countries, I am convinced that the same policy will continue because it has been welcomed by the Colombian people and their leaders."

Venezuelan Foreign Minister Reinaldo Figueredo Planchart asserted that the problem of delimiting sea and undersea areas between the two countries, which has existed for decades, is equally important to Colombia and Venezuela, although it must not be forgotten that other very important matters are also pending. "There are many other things for which the communities at the borders want solutions, and these are the matters we are going to address on a priority basis," he said.

When asked if the delimitation problems will be solved during the administrations of Presidents Virgilio Barco and Carlos Andres Perez, he asserted that "we must not set fixed deadlines on matters."

This week Londono and Figueredo toured the extensive frontier between the two countries and directly learned about the situation at the Colombian-Venezuelan border, where smuggling of goods, drug trafficking, and kidnappings proliferate.

Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras Sign Pact

PA1102215490 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1223 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] Guatemala City, 9 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—The vice presidents of Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras on 8 February approved an overall integration plan, known as "Trifinio," which will cover an area of 7,541 square km at the borders of the three countries.

In the final document, signed on 8 February, the vice presidents expressed their satisfaction with the support they have received from the international community for the social and economic welfare programs designed to correct imbalances in the area. The vice presidents are especially grateful to the EEC for its interest and economic support in beginning program activities to help peasants.

The document adds that "this program has the necessary rules and methodology to extend its benefits to the people of the Trifinio area. A comission has already been installed."

Vice President Roberto Carpio of Guatemala, Vice President Francisco Merino of El Salvador, and Vice President Jacobo Omar Hernadez of Honduras attended the meeting. OAS adviser Fernando Carvajal D'Angelo and Former Honduran Vice President Alfredo Fortin Inestroza were also present at the meeting.

Cuba

Commentary on Future U.S., S. Africa Plans

FL1302153090 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1142 GMT 13 Feb 90

["Our Opinion" commentary by Rafael Berastegui]

[Text] Demonstrations of joy have lasted over 48 hours all over the world from the release in Cape Town on Sunday of Nelson Mandela, leader of the South African national liberation movement, as well as for the official proclamation of Namibia's independence on 21 March, and South Africa's legalization of the African National Congress, the Pan-African Congress, the Communist Party, and other peoples organizations.

The release of Walter Sisulu and Nelson Mandela gives the African origin majority the experience and leadership needed to advance toward a new order. The result of radical changes in the balance of force which followed the Angolan-Cuban victory of Cuito Cuanavale in 1988 justifies the happiness and optimism of progressive humankind and a promising future for southern Africa.

Nevertheless, the sky is not clear. The George Bush government, after appearing to join in the joy surrounding Mandela's release, hinted in the last few hours that it will move to relax the sanctions imposed by the U.S. Congress against South Africa in 1986. According to the U.S. Congress provisions, before sanctions can be lifted against the South African authorities, the regime should also completely eliminate apartheid laws and begin good faith negotiations, without preconditions, with true representatives of the black majority.

Up to now, the Pretoria administration has not complied with these requirements. President Frederick de Klerk said the permanent elimination of apartheid is not among his plans. In a news conference in Washington on Monday, George Bush said some of the U.S. Congress sanctions are counterproductive and that De Klerk should be given credit for the changes carried out. This can be considered a warning of the next offensive to strengthen the apartheid system, and perhaps of additional plans.

Is there a relation between the 21 January attack on the Angolan garrison by the U.S.-protected National Union for the Total Independence of Angola? Is there also a relation between the postponement of the tripartite commission meeting scheduled between 15 and 18 February? Is there a move to revert changes in southern Africa? We will see.

At a time when imperialism's arrogance is growing, optimism should be cautious, calm, intelligent, and mobilizing; it should als be aimed at strengthening what has been achieved.

U.S. 'Isolated' in UN Human Rights Commission

FL1402022090 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2032 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] The United States and other Western powers have failed in their attempt to have the General Committee of the UN Human Rights Commission ask Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar present a report on human rights in Cuba. In circles close to the UN Human Rights Commission, which is meeting in Geneva, it has become known that the Cuban position was widely supported by the regional groups, which believe that such a report on human rights in Cuba from the UN secretary general would not be appropriate. The Latin American, African, Asian, and East European groups backed the Cuban statement that neither the president nor the General Committee had the right to ask the UN secretary general for a report. Thus, the Western powers on the UN Human Rights Commission were again left isolated in their campaign against Cuba.

30th Anniversary of Soviet Aid Noted

FL1402032890 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] Disinterested cooperation between a great power and a small country is one of the most beautiful expressions of internationalism. Today is the 30th anniversary of the start of this new kind of cooperation between the USSR and Cuba, which is possible only because of the Marxist-Leninist concept of solidarity. This aid has been of decisive value in the subsistence and development of our economy, as well as in the training of Cuban technicians and specialists.

The credits provided by the USSR during these three decades have primarily taken the form of technological-industrial equipment. To date, 460 enterprises have been built and remodeled with Soviet assistance, including vital economic centers such as the Cienfuegos [word indistinct] refinery, all the country's metallurgical enterprises that produce sheet steel, and the sugarcane combine factory, to mention a few.

Thanks to the increases in production obtained in Cuba in different fields, in addition to meeting more than one-third of the Soviet population's need for sugar and almost half its consumption of citrus fruit, other sectors have now joined the bilateral exchange. The electronics and pharmaceutical industries, medical equipment, and biotechnology have become part of the new agreements under which Cuba can reciprocate for the goods it has received. Currently, three delegations from the two countries are working in Moscow, examining the increase in cooperation in light industry and about 400 goals of common interest.

The results of these three decades of cooperation are a worthy example that is already part of the history of international economic relations.

Soviet Oil-Drilling Platform To Be Set Up

FL1402032390 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2049 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] The first marine oil-drilling platform will arrive in our country on 25 February, with its assembly to begin in early March in the (Cupei) block, at the entrance to Cardenas Bay in Matanzas. The hydrotechnical facility, valued at more than six million rubles, is stationary. It will permit up to six 5,000-meter wells to be drilled and will have a lodging block with capacity for 40 people. The specialists of the Central Petroleum Drilling and Extraction Enterprise believe that, given the complexity and number of resources needed to set up the platform, it may take up to nine months to complete the task. The group of workers, specialists, and operators who will work on this modern facility have already completed their technical training. The Soviet engineers who, together with the Cubans, will set up the platform, are expected at the end of this week.

Dominican Republic

President Balaguer Leaves for U.S. for Checkup

FL1302172190 Santo Domingo Radio-Television Dominicana Radio Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] President Joaquin Balaguer left for the United States at 1100 yesterday, where he will undergo a routine medical checkup. The chief of state traveled on a regular American Airlines flight to Miami, planning to then go on to Boston for medical exams. Prior to his departure, President Balaguer issued Decree No. 61-90 giving the vice president, engineer Carlos Morales Troncoso, during his absence.

Accompanying the chief of state on his trip to the United States were Brigade General Luis Perez Bello, chief of the aide's corps; Anibal Paez, his personal aide; Camilo Nazir Tejada, sea captain and administrator of national goods; and Consul to Miami Manuel Guaroa Liranzo.

Although it was not reported officially, it was said that the chief of state will return to the country 15 February, since he will preside over an inauguration ceremony in Puerto Plata on that date.

Grenada

Jones Announces Elections for New Government

FL1202161490 Bridgetown CANA in English 2331 GMT 11 Feb 90

[Text] St. George's, Grenada, Feb 11, CANA—Grenadians will choose a new government on March 13, Prime Minister Ben Jones announced on Sunday. The date, anticipated for months and only two weeks ahead of the constitutional deadline, falls on the 11th anniversary of the coup that toppled the Sir Eric Gairy government. But Jones, who took office last December 19 on the death of Herbert Blaize, said it will now have a "totally new significance."

The announcement was made at a rally of The National Party (TNP) attended by more than 2,000 people and at which Grenada-born Trinidadian calypsonian the Mighty Sparrow performed. Jones, who presented his party's 15 election candidates, appealed for support, saying Grenadians should not change a good machine. "If you have a motor that's working well, don't lift the bonnet and interfere with the engine," he told the rally which began two hours late.

Ten newcomers are among the candidates of which the only one known nationally is Michael Ceasar, a businessman who will contest the Carriacou seat last held by Blaize.

Jones said his party's emphasis will be on agriculture but it would not ignore tourism. He promised to attack corruption and fight the illegal drug trade. He said a form of local government would be re-introduced but at less cost than that promoted by the main opposition party, the National Democratic Congress [NDC].

The NDC, led by former interim government leader Nicholas Brathwaite, is regarded as the early favourite for the poll. Other contenders are Gairy's United Labour Party and the New National Party (NNP) of Dr Keith Mitchell, of which both the NDC and the TNP are breakaway factions. Blaize and later Jones headed a minority government following the splits in the NNP which resulted in the opposition controlling nine seats. The NNP won 14 of the 15 in the last vote in December 1984.

The coup 11 years ago brought the New Jewel Movement of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop to power. Bishop was killed in a subsequent coup in October 1983 before a U.S. invasion led to the restoration of constitutional government.

Haiti

U.S. Envoy Reportedly 'Squabbles' With Avril

FL1302164890 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1000 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] Alvin Adams, the U.S. ambassador in Port-au-Prince, flew to Washington last weekend, apparently to meet with the U.S. Government face to face in connection with the latest developments in the Haitian political situation. According to the newspaper LE NOUVELLISTE, the U.S. ambassador met with General Prosper Avril, head of the Haitian military government, during dinner the day before taking a plane to Washington.

Ambassador Adams has already been called a loaded donkey because of the proverb he uttered: A loaded

donkey does not stop. His relations with the Port-au-Prince government are not too good. The Haitian Government does not appear to be too happy with Mr. Adams' position in favor of elections in Haiti.

We remind listeners that there have been several little squabbles between these two camps since the ambassador arrived in Haiti in November. First, Gen. Avril did not receive the ambassador's credentials on the scheduled date. Some time later, in Cite Soleil, the ambassador recalled the general's promise to hold elections in Haiti. Notably, a few days after the 20 January crisis, Gen. Avril declared that what the Haitian people needed were jobs, and that the things discussed in French at the National Palace were not the Haitian people's concern. Meanwhile, it was also rumored that the preceding week, during the forcible blow struck by the government against the opposition on 20 January, the U.S. ambassador had a stormy exchange with Gen. Avril about what had happened and about Haiti's political future.

Periodicals View Democracy Prospects Under Avril

FL1302180890 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Press review]

[Excerpts] Most of the periodicals published this week talk about only one thing. They say General Avril retreated from last week's macoute acts to strike harder further down the line. Therefore, there is no hope of democracy's blossoming in Haiti under the current government. [passage omitted]

"Gen. Avril Has Backed Off To Pounce More Effectively Further on Down the Line" is the title of an article by Herold Jean-Francois in the periodical BALANCE. The journalist analyzes the 31 January news conference as a means used by Gen. Avril to lower tension without adding anything new to the equation. [passage omitted] The article also points out certain contradictions in the news conference. The general speaks on the one hand of slip-ups and gaffes. Further on, he contradicts himself, saying that the opposition should consider the events a lesson. [passage omitted]

According to Jean-Francois, the general promised to implement democracy. Yet two days after the news conference, in Cite Soleil, he brushed aside all promises of elections. The statements he made bore a greater resemblance to statements by a campaigning candidate, leading people to believe that Gen. Avril has retreated only to enable himself to leap forward later. Jean-Francois asks: Will Gen. Avril have time to realize everything he has in mind? [passage omitted]

Jean Robert Herard of HAITI EN MARCHE thinks everyone should ask himself if it is possible for the Haitian people to participate in elections under the current government. [passage omitted] Herard thinks Haiti is caught between a rock and a hard place. Although many feel the Haitian people should get out of their difficult situation via elections, it is difficult to see how the nation can rid itself of the clique of thugs that does whatever it pleases, since this same clique has control of the elections. Herard feels the only hope that remains in the Haitian masses is the potential to provide input through elections. The road to a dictatorship is not too smooth these days; thus, the general might not be able to control the situation the way he would like. In addition, the masses, whose demands have gone unmet, could wake up and demand an account of the nation's authorities at any moment. If this were to happen, the general would fall victim to the very situation he established in Haiti: repression, crooked wheeling and dealing, mystification, and so forth.

Accounting for the regimes Haiti has had since 7 February 1986, BALANCE shows that the past four years have been a continuation of Duvalierism, no different from the governments of 1957 or 1971. [passage omitted] According to BALANCE, 7 February merely allowed Baby Doc to be sent away so his close friends could replace him and continue right along the Duvalierist line. [passage omitted] BALANCE says: On 7 February 1990, we find ourselves in an atmosphere identical to the one that existed when Duvalier was leaving power in February 1986. The country is totally blocked. Has not the church, which was the main player in the 1986 uprooting, once again called for unity? Has not the commercial and industrial sector also spoken out forcefully? Does not the atmosphere in Haiti look like an end-of-regime atmosphere? Have not friendly countries dropped the Haitian Government while exerting pressure on it? The only missing note is the Haitian people. [passage omitted]

The chances for the government to stay in power appear slim, for every day it does something vile that makes it even more unpopular. According to HAITI-OBSERVATEUR, in U.S. Government circles, everyone has lost hope. The statements from the National Palace these last few weeks have only served to add to the Americans' despair regarding the possibility and ability of this government to allow elections to be held normally in Haiti. In both Washington and Port-au-Prince, preparations are being made to provide assistance in the face of the coming events. Nothing is certain for Gen. Avril. [passage omitted]

Port-au-Prince Radio Outlines Electoral Law

FL1202184690 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1200 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Excerpt] By a decree dated 6 February 1990, the government of the republic publishes the Electoral Law written by the Permanent Electoral Council [CEP]. This law, which is to govern the 1990 elections, contains 128 articles in eight chapters.

Article 1 speaks of the CEP, which is independent and in charge of supervising electoral proceedings throughout Haiti until the results of the balloting are proclaimed and consecrated. The CEP is also in charge of handling all

litigation—all the little arguments in connection with contestations—that may arise, either during elections or regarding the application of the Electoral Law or violations thereof, without prejudice to any legal action that might be taken in this connection.

We point out that the 6 February Electoral Law says that to be elected senator, one must be at least 30 years old and never have renounced his Haitian nationality. This latter condition is also valid for candidates to the presidency, who must be at least 35 years old.

Article 58, Chapter 5 says that any citizen may be a candidate to any elected position, subject to the conditions stipulated in the Constitution of 1987 and the nation's laws.

Article 68 says that the CEP's decisions can be appealed before the Court of Cassation, which will rule immediately on all such cases.

Chapter 6, which deals with contestations, grants all properly registered voters living in a given commune or electoral (?district) the right to contest a candidacy for elected office if the voter feels that the candidate in question does not meet all the conditions for eligibility as stipulated in the Constitution and the nation's laws.

Another very important article is Article 47, which says that to be a presidential candidate, one must be presented by a political party, group of political parties, or any group that has at least 10 seats [as heard] in parliament. [passage omitted]

CEP's Choice of BED Members Criticized

FL1302164790 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1000 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Excerpts] The Election Council [CEP] was busy setting up the departmental electoral bureaus [BED] at the end of January and the beginning of February. Last week the CEP published the list of the members of the BED for each geographical department of Haiti. Only the official list for Port-au-Prince has not been published.

Certain departments appear to be satisfied. However, others have protested, saying that many BED members are people who participated in the preceding governments. [passage omitted] We remind listeners that so far, a majority of the political class is saying that after what happened on 20 January, it will not participate in elections as planned for Haiti. [passage omitted]

Canadian Radio Airs Interview With Exile

FL1202184590 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 0950 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Interview with Dr. Louis E. Roy, Haitian exile and official of the Organization for the Defense of the Constitution and Human Rights, by unidentified Radio Canada announcer at unidentified location in Canada on 7 February—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Radio Canada announcer] Present here in the studio with us is Dr. Louis Edouard Roy, an official of the Organization for the Defense of the Constitution and Human Rights. Dr. Roy, a majority of opposition political parties in Haiti say that for unfettered, democratic elections to be held in Haiti, Prosper Avril will have to step down. Do you share that opinion?

[Roy] Completely. We know that while General Avril is in power, there can be no proper elections. It is absolutely impossible.

[Announcer] However, three governments have already stepped down, and they were hardly minor ones. We have seen Duvalier, Manigat, and Namphy leave power. How do you know the next leader will not be another Prosper Avril?

[Roy] Because we absolutely do not want the Army to participate in this provisional civilian government. In fact, we would not even agree to return to Haiti to participate in the electoral process under a mixed civilian-military government. The military must admit that they have failed once again. They must withdraw and allow the civilian population and civilian organizations to organize proper elections.

[Announcer] What other conditions would be necessary to make such elections possible?

[Roy] First, that a provisional civilian government be formed with participation in the choice of the members of such a government, by political parties that are ready to temporarily step out of the presidential race—since no electoral campaign has been declared open anyway—and all the socioprofessional, union, and other types of organizations, even the population and the peasant organizations. Everyone should voice his opinion regarding the choice of this civilian government, which would thus have the popular support and trust the Army has lost definitively, with no hope of recovery.

[Announcer] Is that not a bit too theoretical? We know very well that the opposition has not always managed to unite. For example, in Chile recently, 17 opposition parties united and manage to oust General Pinochet. Could the same be said of Haiti?

[Roy] I think the disunity is apparent rather than real. The proof is that everyone agrees on the need to form such a civilian government—except for one or two who still think they can benefit from the Army's favor and come to power through more or less fraudulent, more or less [word indistinct] elections.

[Announcer] So, how are you going to proceed in forming this civilian government?

[Roy] We are doing it now, and we want a poll....[changes thought] unfortunately...[changes thought] a scientific poll, which we are not capable of conducting, but which we hope protector governments, democratic governments, those who like us, want to return to democracy, will help us take among the Haitian population, both in

Haiti and abroad. We will make sure that we come up with a formula that is acceptable....

[Announcer, interrupting] Do you have any candidates in mind?

[Roy] I do not have any particular candidates in mind. I myself am not a candidate. However, I think that each of us can think of five or six people he would be willing to propose as members of a provisional government. I am convinced we are going to find at least three of these five or six names—of, let us say, a maximum of 10 names—that we could put on priority lists. There will be certain names that will appear on all the lists.

[Announcer] You mean you are not too badly scalded? I mean, with all the recent events, with all this chaos that continues? Are you still confident? Do you think there will be real change after Avril's departure?

[Roy] There has to be a change! And if there is not one, the Haitian people are going to wake up, like the last time. And at some point, it will say no—even to the protector countries, if they try to impose any particular formula. The Haitian people are ready for democracy. The masses are illiterate, but not stupid.

[Announcer] Dr. Roy, thank you very much; I hope your country recovers its peace.

[Roy] Thank you very kindly, Madame. [passage omitted]

St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Mitchell on Dominican Republic Banana Sales

FL1402004790 Bridgetown CANA in English 2318 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] Kingstown, St. Vincent, Feb. 13, CANA—The prime minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, James Mitchell, says he knows of "no change of heart" by the Dominican Republic on its plan to export bananas to Europe. Mitchell was reacting to reports out of Santo Domingo that the government was willing to abandon the sale of bananas to Europe if the shipments caused economic problems for the banana producers of the Caribbean Community.

Mitchell was the first Caricom head of government to send a cable to the Dominican Republic's Foreign Ministry pointing out that the plan to sell bananas to Europe was contrary to an agreement Santo Domingo had with Caricom [Caribbean Common Market] leaders. Mitchell had warned the move would be interpreted as a signal that the Dominican Republic had abandoned its quest to join Caricom.

But the Dominican Republic's foreign minister, Joaquin Ricardo, in an interview with the BBC's "Caribbean Report," stated that he would give the "unequivocal statement" of his government's preparedness to abandon the plan to export bananas to Europe in view of the problems being raised by Caricom governments. Prime Minister Mitchell said that he was not in possession of any such assurance from Santo Domingo.

"All I am interested in knowing is that the Dominican Republic will adhere to its promise to exclude itself, as a new member of the Lome Convention, from selling bananas to Europe, in accordance with the terms of a memorandum of understanding it signed last October," he said.

A meeting of representatives of the Caricom banana producing countries is being arranged for St. Lucia, headquarters of the Windward Islands Banana Association, before a delegation meets with officials of the Dominican Republic for a "clarification and resolution" to the current dispute.

Salinas Discusses National, International Topics

Discusses Economy

PM1302205590 Paris LE FIGARO in French 31 Jan 90 p XI (LE FIG-ECO supplement)

[Interview with President Carlos Salinas de Gortari by Jacques Jacquet-Francillon; date and place not given]

[Text] [Jacquet-Francillon] This is your second visit to Europe since you took office just over a year ago. Why this interest and what practical results do you expect from this trip?

[Salinas] The prospect of the 1992 European deadline and the events which have recently taken place in East Europe are very important to Mexico.

What counts most for me is to make sure that, given the changes which have taken place in East Europe, the West European countries are not tempted to forget to pay a lot of attention to Mexico and to Latin America in general.

During my talks with 14 heads of state and of government and during my meetings with businessmen, I will try to encourage the Europeans to invest more in Mexico and persuade them to accept an increase in imports of Mexican goods into Europe.

[Jacquet-Francillon] You are therefore not entirely satisfied with the current level of these investments.... Which country are you thinking of in particular?

[Salinas] I would undoubtedly like to see an increase in French investment in Mexico, but also in investment by all the other Europeans.

We have already obtained a favorable response from German investors, and we have projects under way with Britain.

[Jacquet-Francillon] How do you plan to persuade your partners?

[Salinas] In my speech at the Davos Forum, I want to show the European and world community of investors that Mexico is an advantageous country because of its strategic position and because it represents a considerable market of 85 million inhabitants. It is a country that has returned to economic growth and has succeeded in reducing its inflation from 200 percent in 1987 to less than 20 percent last year.

[Jacquet-Francillon] What other arguments do you have?

[Salinas] The following: We have already signed commercial agreements with the United States—agreements that enable us to guarantee security for foreign investors in Mexico. Thanks to these agreements, any investor in Mexico will be able to export to the United States the products he manufactures in our country.

Do not forget that our country is bordered by two oceans: We are a major channel for access to the Pacific Basin.

[Jacquet-Francillon] Would you contemplate Mexico's entry into the big free-trade zone formed by the United States and Canada in 1988?

[Salinas] The U.S. and Mexican economies are still too different for us to be able to raise the question of a common market.

Our commercial agreement with the United States was reached sector by sector. Agreement has been reached in the steel sector. An agreement on textiles is being drafted, and more than 40 other products have already been incorporated into the preferential agreements with our northern neighbor.

[Jacquet-Francillon] What about Canada?

[Salinas] Just a few days ago, a Mexican Government delegation visited Canada. During the visit, progress was achieved on a pledge to sign further agreements promoting U.S. ties.

[Jacquet-Francillon] You just mentioned prospects of access to the Pacific basin. Were you thinking of Japan in particular?

[Salinas] Yes. Last year we strengthened our ties with Japan, and I plan to visit Tokyo next June.

Japan has played an important role in the process of renegotiating our foreign debt, primarily in the financial sphere. Credit to the tune of $2 billion or more has been granted to us by Japan for guarantees and development projects.

At the same time, Japanese industrialists have implemented several investment plans in Mexico. For instance, Nissan, the car manufacturer, has implemented a project worth $1 billion over three years.

That should encourage other Japanese investors, precisely because we are open to the United States, but also because they will be able to reexport the products manufactured in Mexico to Japan.

I would like to add that it is in our interest to develop Japanese tourism in our country, and that some Japanese groups are already striving to do so by their participation in Mexican hotel chains. Japan is also preparing to finance a project to combat pollution in Mexico City.

[Jacquet-Francillon] You have used the word "anxiety" several times when referring to changes in East Europe. What is your personal analysis of the events which have recently taken place in those countries?

[Salinas] We share the industrialized countries' fascination with the changes which have taken place in East Europe. But the situation in each of those countries must

be analyzed in more detail, because each is an individual case, whether it be Poland, Hungary, the GDR, or Romania.

We are witnessing a formidable people's mobilization for freedom—a value which Mexico holds dear. This is an inspiring movement toward democracy, and we must recognize the role played by the USSR and its leader Mr. Gorbachev in this connection.

However, we must also remember the economic situation. The leaders of the new governments will have to make a considerable effort to explain to their populations that the necessary economic decisions will cost them dearly and have considerable repercussions on people's lives.

[Jacquet-Francillon] What do you think Europe's role should be?

[Salinas] The changes we have just mentioned and the 1992 outlook give Europe the obligation to rethink its international responsibility.

It is in our interest to strengthen Mexico's presence in Europe and the European presence in Mexico. However, this is also in Europe's interest and thus also in France's interest.

Speaks on Drug Trafficking

PM1202161090 Paris LE FIGARO in French 3-4 Feb 90 p 4

[Interview with President Carlos Salinas by Jacques Jacquet-Francillon; date and place not given]

[Text] [Jacquet-Francillon] The international press has rightly paid tribute to the determination and courage you have shown in tackling the world scourge of drug trafficking, notably by spectacular arrests.

However, despite the good personal relations you have with President George Bush, your government publicly condemned the U.S. military intervention in Panama, codenamed Operation Just Cause.

Is there a degree of inconsistency between your position on the domestic front and your stance on the international scene? Do you think that the struggle against drugs should take the form of a veritable war in which all the true democracies should jointly participate?

[Salinas] You are absolutely right. I am convinced that the struggle against drug trafficking must be international and worldwide. No country can end the trafficking alone. We need coordinated action among all the different nations, which is why we Mexicans are actively participating in the Vienna meetings and the exchanges of intelligence and information regarding trafficking.

However, the responsibility for this struggle on our territory rests with the Mexicans alone. We are combating drug trafficking in our own interest.

We are doing so with determination, because the resources, weapons, and people involved represent a danger to the health of our population, the country's security, and even national sovereignty.

We are nonetheless convinced that we must strengthen international cooperation because otherwise we will not overcome this scourge that is threatening mankind.

[Jacquet-Francillon] You did not answer my question on the U.S. military intervention in Panama....

[Salinas] Each country's national sovereignty must be respected, and the Mexican Government reaffirmed that publicly, in accordance with its tradition. But I would also like to point out that we publicly criticized General Noriega because there were questions which the Mexican authorities wanted him to answer; we did that despite the fact that it goes against our tradition, our history, and our principles.

I would have preferred the problem to have been solved by diplomatic means, because the U.S. military intervention was contrary to our tradition and our principles.

Our relations with the United States are still good. However, we want to make one thing clear: It is not possible to allow the fight against drug trafficking to become a pretext for foreign interference.

Belize

Antidrug Agreement Signed With Mexico

FL1002192390 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0101 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Report by Enriqueta Luna]

[Text] Belmopan, Belize, 9 Feb (NOTIMEX)—Mexico and Belize signed a cooperation agreement here today to fight drug trafficking and drug addiction in both countries. The accord focuses on preventing and reducing illegal demand for narcotics and psychotropic substances, controlling supply, stemming the illegal traffic in narcotics, and regulating the sale of chemical precursors for manufacturing drugs. With the agreement—which will be implemented with adherence to the principles of self-determination, noninterference in internal affairs, legal equality, and respect for the nations' territorial integrity—Mexico has now instituted respect in its northern and southern borders for the fight against drug trafficking.

The agreement was signed by Mexican Attorney General Enrique Alvarez del Castillo and Glenn Godfrey, Belizean attorney general and minister of tourism and the environment, at the Government Palace in the capital. Thus, both countries will also channel their efforts to eradicate narcotics crops and establish substitution programs to develop legal crops where appropriate.

In addition to the agreement with Belize, Mexico has signed similar agreements with the United States, Costa Rica, Colombia, Venezuela, and Guatemala, in which the need for an integrated effort by these nations to fight this scourge of humanity has been stressed. Regulation of the production, import, export, storage, distribution, and sale of raw materials, chemical products, solvents, and other chemical precursors used in manufacturing Also, information exchange systems for fighting drug trafficking and addiction are have been established, with absolute respect for the jursidiction of each nation's authorities.

Mexico and Belize have pledged to seek more effective implementation of such conventional instruments as extradition, mutual legal aid, and enforcement of criminal sentences to counteract drug trafficking in their territories.

Costa Rica

President-Elect Calderon Plans Administration

PA1302160190 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0116 GMT 13 Fen 90

[Text] This week President-elect Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier will complete his contacts for appointing the cabinet that he will announce when he returns from Mexico. A Ministry of Tourism will be created, and the official in charge of reorganizing that government office will be given the rank of minister. Calderon Fournier has also conversed with various Central American presidents about the peace process in the area.

The president-elect will also request economic assistance for Costa Rica from President George Bush The president has plans for housing construction programs for 40,000 Costa Ricans where the middle-class will pay low-interest, long-term rates.

Calderon Fournier said he will announce the cabinet appointments by late February or early March. A Ministry of Tourism will operate for the first time in Costa Rica, and the official in charge of organizing that government office will be given the rank of minister to obtain assistance from the World Bank for an economic restructuring program.

Concerning the requests for employment, he reiterated there will not be any mass dismissals, although there will be some vacancies in key positions. Although all Costa Ricans requesting employment cannot be given jobs, they will be provided guidance so they can obtain jobs in private enterprise.

The president-elect also announced he has conversed with Honduran President Rafael Leonardo Callejas, Panamanian President Guillermo Endara, and Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani about the Central American peace process. He also held a telephone conversation with Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo and received a congratulations message from Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega via fax.

Calderon Fournier will probably meet with U.S. President George Bush next week and will request assistance in achieving sound agreements with the IMF and the World Bank, along with direct U.S. economic assistance and the U.S. President's influence in other developed nations of the world, so they will support Costa Rica.

The president-elect will soon meet with President Oscar Arias Sanchez to analyze the current economic situation in the country. Calderon announced that any increase in prices and tariffs must be studied, emphasizing that solutions to any problems must be sought. Concerning a meeting with Carlos Manuel Castillo, Calderon Fournier says he will wait awhile.

El Salvador

Investigation Into Bombing of Repatriates Ordered

PA1302162390 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1507 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] San Salvador, 13 Feb (DPA)— The Salvadoran Government has publicly announced its regret over the death of several children and civilians in the Guancorita Canton, Chalantengo Department, on 11 February, and has ordered an investigation to clarify the case, which is being blamed on the Air Force. The massacre took place at a camp of Salvadoran refugees who had been in

Honduras. According to residents, Salvadoran Air Force helicopters strafed the camp following a clash between government troops and guerrillas of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front.

Meanwhile, Air Force Commander General Rafael Villamariona denied the accusations but admitted soldiers belonging to a detachment stationed in Chalantenango had received air support. "The participation of the Air Force is effected according to regulations, which is why it could not have bombed civilians," Villamariona said.

In the wake of this grave incident, Chalantenango Diocese Bishop Monsignor Eduardo Alas helped to provide relief to the wounded and heard testimonies from residents. They said that the helicopters had dropped "rockets," according to the bishop.

On 12 February, military sources confirmed heavy fighting had taken place in the area known as Corral de Piedra, Guancorita Canton, some 80 km north of San Salvador, and that several civilians were killed and at least 15 wounded as a result of the fighting. Mass groups have demanded punishment for the persons responsible, since the victims, most of them minors, were repatriates from Honduras who had settled between Guarjila and San Jose Las Flores, which is where they had come from.

The army states that it also captured a rebel identified as Abel Dubon Chevarria, who according to the official report disclosed that the rebels had used their catapults against the houses in the town. However, the area residents deny this report.

Guerrilla Commander Comments on Peace Prospects

PA1302203690 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1750 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] Mexico City, 13 Feb (DPA)— Salvadoran guerrilla Commander Ferman Cienfuegos has told a Mexican newspaper that the most recent guerrilla offensive opened real possibilities for the resumption of the dialogue and the attainment of a peace agreement in his country.

In an interview with the newspaper LA JORNADA, Cienfuegos said: "Democracy is now the only solution. This time we have very real possibilities of attaining it through a social pact, concerted efforts, and a conciliatory attitude. This opportunity to negotiate is a great chance to end the war once and for all."

Cienfuegos added that the only ones who still reject a political and negotiated solution of the armed conflict, with the mediation of the United Nations, are "the colonels without victories," officers "who were not made for democracy."

Similarly, Cienfuegos described Salvadoran conservative President Alfredo Cristiani as a "man of goodwill," although "powerless." Cienfuegos said he agrees with the "spirit" of the statement recently made by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, who asserted that 1990 can be the year in which the Salvadoran conflict is solved.

Agreeing with Cienfuegos, Salvadoran Social Christian leader Ruben Zamora said that the November 1989 guerrilla offensive shook all Salvadoran structures. Zamora told the aforementioned newspaper: "Right now, we are perhaps as close as we have ever been to ending the 10-year Salvadoran war."

Zamora, however, stated that there is still confusion regarding the resumption of the dialogue, mainly because of internal resistance within the Salvadoran Government regarding the UN role in the negotiations. Ruben Zamora added that President George Bush has adopted a "more pragmatic" policy, less based on ideology, and that his administration "has decided to support the negotiations," although he admitted that a Panama-style invasion is still possible.

Guatemala

National Defense Staff Warns of Destabilization

PA1402043390 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 13 Feb 90 pp 2, 58

[Text] The National Defense Staff met on 12 February at the Cream House with prominent Guatemalans to report its views regarding the next few months. The staff noted that it is anticipating a new wave of destabilization efforts during the electoral process.

Deputies from the National Defense and Human Rights Commissions of Congress, the secretary generals of the political parties, and the attorney for the Human Rights and National Reconciliation Commissions participated in the meeting with the National Defense Staff, according to Deputy Victor Hugo Godoy, who also participated.

Deputy Godoy said the staff members explained the Armed Forces' position on the democratization process and on the need for strengthening the process. Staff members also noted, as part of the state aparatus, what obstacles could emerge during the election year.

The National Defense Staff, Deputy Godoy added, believes that the election process will end normally. Godoy said the Army is undertaking efforts to guarantee this.

However, the deputy added, the National Defense Staff also believes that some destabilization effort could occur. He noted that the purpose of the meeting was to present information about this type of obstacle.

According to those attending the meeting, the destabilization efforts could come from the self-styled group called "The Mountain Officers," the power groups that finance or encourage these officers, the criminal element or other forces.

Finally, Deputy Godoy said those invited to the meeting, which began at 0900 and concluded at 1230, asked questions on the issue at hand.

* Poor 1989 Economic Performance Noted

90EM0086A Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE ('Domingo' Supplement) in Spanish 31 Dec 89 p 11

[Article by Fernando Guillermo Poroj: "Guatemala: A Weak Economy"]

[Text] This final day of 1989 is a propitious one for looking back at the 364 days that have elapsed, and for viewing the state of economic affairs in the country with a critical eye.

This times serves as a kind of occasion to gauge the good and the bad experienced in this area by Guatemalans during that interval, especially if we are talking about the large majorities who have been hard hit in their pocketbooks.

We reflect on this because it is no secret to anyone that the forecasts of Bank of Guatemala technicians have done little to remedy the economic situation of low income people who, during the year now ending, could not manage to purchase the essential things for survival even by combining all their family income.

The Projects

According to the predictions made for 1989 by the Bank of Guatemala in the economic area, economic growth at a rate of about 4.0 percent was anticipated, and the gross domestic fixed capital formation was expected to rise to 10.2 percent.

These prospects were fostered primarily by public investment, which was expected to grow as much as 12.0 percent.

But it was not to be. The hopes were vested in the construction of highways, and at this point those projects still remain unfinished.

That growth was also expected to be partly supported by keeping private investment at its 1988 level, that is, 4.0 percent, as well as by maintaining a moderate increase in consumer prices at about 9.0 percent. In the external sector, exports of goods and services attained a rate of 6.0 percent in real terms, more or less the same as in 1988.

External Sector

Still based on the aforementioned expectations, the external sector could not go unnoticed. Insofar as it was concerned, external economic relations were expected to be favorable during the year ending today, with this situation reflected in the maintenance of equilibrium in the balance of payments.

Nevertheless, based on the aforementioned document, it was anticipated that the current account would continue to register a negative balance as a result of the deficit in the trade balance (about $384.6 million) and in services account ($306.9 million) because a positive balance of $220 million would be accrued from transfers, as the document notes.

Also in this sector, it was claimed that the trade balance deficit would continue to be attributed to growth in traditional imports, although the latter were expected to be good. Nevertheless, there were categories such as coffee that experienced serious problems.

Still in this connection, a deficit amounting to $306.9 million was anticipated in service operations. It was calculated that this would be caused by the negative results in the investment yield account, due to the payment of interest on the foreign public debt.

The document observed that the surplus in transfers would be similar to that in 1988, owing largely to the donation of $75 million made by AID [Agency for International Development].

As for capital account, a positive balance of $449.0 million was predicted, bolstered more than anything by short- and long-term private capital. In other words, it was expected, on the whole, to have a sum of about $357 million, to which would be added the official and bank capital, the receipts of which were calculated at a net total of $141.1 million.

To summarize, it may be claimed that 1989 was augured as being reinforced by income from exports, to which would be added donations made to the country by financial entities such as the IDB, IBRD [International Bank for Reconstruction and Development], and IMF.

With such measures it was expected to attain a surplus of $25.5 million in absolute international monetary reserves, so as to be able to accrue fresh foreign currency intended for the economic agents.

As for the foreign debt, the debt policy was expected to be similar to that of 1988; in other words, we would become indebted in order to maintain equilibrium in the balance of payments and funds for public investment projects.

Fiscal Sector

As for this area, everyone is familiar with Decree 70-89 of the Congress of the Republic, which approved the state budget of revenue and outlays totaling 3.6481 billion quetzales.

It should be noted that, with regard to revenues for the budget, it was expected to accrue 2.5782 billion quetzales from public credit; in other words, 406.4 million quetzales would be associated with disbursements for foreign loans, and the rest with public credit totaling 665.2 million quetzales resulting from the sale of treasury bonds corresponding to fiscal year 1989.

It is not irrelevant to mention that this budget had calculated a deficit amounting to 987.6 million quetzales, which represented 4.2 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP) estimated for that period.

And, on the other hand, to conclude these notes on the economy that have updated to some extent what was asserted during those early days of 1989, it should be pointed out that the monetary and financial aggregates played their role in Guatemala's economic activity. For example, as of 10 February the net international reserves totaled $12.0 million, later declining to $8 million.

Also, insofar as internal assets were concerned, they dropped to 48.0 million quetzales.

And Now What?

After observing the initial state of affairs, there are many who would wonder: What happens now? How are we doing and where are we heading? For this reason, we are presenting today a summary of the views of Carlos Molina Woolford, president of a well-known firm of economists.

These are the main points in economist Molina Woolford's analysis:

Severe Social Deterioration

"We Guatemalans are concluding 1989 with a severe social deterioration, wherein the economic picture is ending with a growth of about 3 percent in the GDP, in real terms, an inflation fluctuating between 15 and 20 percent, and a floating of the currency synonymous with devaluation, the effects of which have fallen upon the poorest sectors.

"To be added to this context of affairs is the government's excessive spending and the lack of fiscal control that exists, moreover, paralyzing infrastructural projects."

Molina Woolford stresses: "This crisis is precisely a result of the lack of fiscal control that we mentioned, which is quite serious. It is due largely to the excessive amount of unnecessary spending. If the government had exercised greater austerity and caution in its spending structure, it would have been able to release funds for other higher priority projects.

"Another side of the problem is the fact that the effect of the 1987 tax reform has already become depleted. That reform operated in 1988: In other words, it gave the government a big boost in tax revenues, but by 1989 it lacked significant effects insofar as tax collections were concerned.

"Tax evasion is the major problem in the fiscal system. If there were greater control in this respect the state apparatus would have more money available."

The economist maintains: "Emphasis should be placed on the governnment's attempt to solve its liquidity problems, but it must try to raise its revenues based on good tax administration, external financing, and a reasonable volume of domestic debt.

"But, in addition, the government must bear in mind the quality of its spending; that is, in order to prevent the squandering of financial resources, it must spend on items that redound in benefits for the population.

"Another part of the problem lies in the fact that the government has many commitments in the area of current spending. This makes it difficult to cut its operating costs, for which truly heroic measures would have to be adopted."

The Foreign Debt

"In this respect Guatemala has accumulated advantages for the future, because its foreign debt has been kept at manageable levels. In 1988 the foreign debt amounted to about $2.7 billion. This year we are talking about a balance of $2.8 billion.

"Compared with Latin America, Guatemala has advantages in this respect, because its situation affords it access to external financing, which must be handled very carefully."

And What About Donations?

"Donations are another important item. In 1989 the United States donated $70 million to Guatemala, funds that have helped to bring equilibrium to the balance of payments. Nevertheless, also in this connection, we are faced with an area in which there must be great caution.

"The money from the donations is not something secure, and when they are lacking it will become a problem for the balance of payments and public finances. That money must never sell out Guatemala's sovereignty.

"Despite expectations, Guatemala has not experienced economic growth in 1989. The government, through the Finance Ministry, predicted, for example, that by that year the GDP would grow about 5 percent; but it has actually remained at 3 percent, far below expectations.

"As for price stability, during the past 2 months inflation has shot up beyond what was predicted. Our economy has been sustained in 1989, but it has not achieved any significant progress," added the economist.

This summary of the economic context in which Guatemalans are facing 1990 is only a part of its history which has gone by. Meanwhile, we are waiting to see what happens during the new period opening up on the horizon.

From all indications it will not bring anything new, because the last phase of government which, according to its programming, consists of consolidating the progress of restructuring and reorganization, among other things through the consolidation of economic

autonomy in every municipality of the Republic, is no longer a solution: They have already passed.

Hence, a challenge is left for the new regime. Are we going to continue dragging along in the same way, or are we going to shift toward a fundamental change that will bring prosperity to the population as a whole?

Nicaragua

FSLN Offer To Negotiate With UNO Viewed

PA1302154090 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1343 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Report by Jose Antonio Maillo]

[Text] Managua, 13 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—According to international observers, the offer by Sandinist leaders to "negotiate" with the Nicaraguan opposition after the 25 February elections is a clear sign that the ruling Sandinist Front doubts its "overwhelming victory."

According to the latest polls released in Nicaragua, the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) will win the elections by an absolute majority, but the opposition disagrees with these polls.

International observers consulted by ACAN-EFE said they were surprised by the statements of two of the most important FSLN commanders, Bayardo Arce and Carlos Nunez, who spoke of seeking "fundamental agreements" and a "concerted action" with the opposition parties after the 25 February elections.

Opposition leader Violeta Chamorro, presidential candidate of the National Opposition Union (UNO), has been categorical in this regard, stating that after her victory she "will send" the nine commanders of the FSLN National Directorate to "plow the land."

Bayardo Arce, considered to be one of the "hard-line" Sandinist commanders, recently told the Nicaraguan publication LA CRONICA that "once we win on 25 February, we plan to call the parties to participate in the nation's concerted efforts to strengthen democracy and peace."

However, Arce, the FSLN campaign manager, added that at this time he does not see the possibility that opposition leaders would form part of President Daniel Ortega's cabinet. "I think it is more feasible that prominent independent figures would play that role," he stressed.

Commander Carlos Nunez, president of the National Assembly, told BARRICADA, the official Sandinist organ, on 5 February that the FSLN would be willing to establish "basic agreements" with the opposition to rebuild the country."

He explained that such an agreement should not be interpreted as a distribution of "power quotas," and added: "We (Sandinists) are going beyond that. We are including the productive, economic, and social aspects by recognizing each citizen's intelligence and ability to produce, and the independent patriotic nature of their ideology and political positions in each area."

In statements for a Spanish newspaper, Violeta Chamorro pointed out that if the UNO wins the elections "Mr. Daniel Ortega, his little brother Humberto Ortega, Tomas Borge, and the other nine little commanders will have to relinquish power and the weapons to me."

"The nine (commanders) who are ruling us will have to move, look for a new job, for example plow the land or pick coffee, which they seem to like but have never done," she added.

Virgilio Godoy, vice presidential candidate for UNO, a coalition made up of 14 political parties, usually says during his rallies that he finds the words concerted effort "disgusting" and that UNO "will never agree to a pact with Sandinism."

Alfredo Cesar, former "contra" leader and UNO candidate for president of the National Assembly, has on several occasions said there will "never" be negotiations with the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN].

Some observers have detected "signs of weakness" in the statements by Arce and Nunez, as with the release from jail of "contras" and former Somozist guardsmen, the pardoning of debts of various production sectors, and the promises to review confiscations.

A European diplomat told ACAN-EFE that "time is running out for the Sandinists. An increasing number of people have been attending UNO rallies, and in the most recent reports I sent to my government I expressed my doubts regarding an overwhelming Sandinist victory as the polls are predicting."

"The Sandinists realize that the Central American governments are growing increasingly closer to the United States, and that should Sandinism win the elections, Nicaragua would be completely isolated," a Latin American ambassador said.

The same diplomat, who abstained from predicting Nicaragua's fate should the FSLN win, added that "the FSLN might honestly win the elections, but the United States, even if it recognizes this victory, is not obliged to offer help to Nicaragua, and Europe seems to be definitely inclining its attention toward the Eastern countries."

Ruben To Head Contra Negotiating Commission

PA1302220990 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1929 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 13 Feb (DPA)—The Nicaraguan contras reported today that they have reorganized their negotiating commission, which will now be headed by

Commander Ruben. Its other members will be Commanders Renato and Emiliano.

The restructuring has taken place since the commission was headed by Colonel Enrique Bermudez, who has been removed from the anti-Sandinist military command. The contras' negotiating commission is in charge of negotiating with the Sandinist government and of maintaining contact with organizations such as the United Nations and the International Commission of Support and Verification, which was tasked by the presidents of Central America with directing the demobilization of the rebels.

The contras have also restructured the technical team of the investigative commission, which is now headed by Domingo Salinas, Benito Darce Quintanilla, and Alvaro Icaza Vargas.

According to a communique issued by the contras today in this capital, the changes are part of a restructuring of the anti-Sandinist leadership since Col. Bermudez was removed from the contra military command.

Bermudez Views Contra Decision To Oust Him

PA1202202290 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 9 Feb 90 pp 3, 4

[Text] Tegucigalpa—Former Colonel Enrique Bermudez yesterday rejected the decision ousting him as the top contra leader and warned new FDN [Nicaraguan Democratic Force] military chief Israel Galeano, alias Franklin, that the internal division caused by the group of field commanders will have "very negative effects" on the opposition UNO's [National Opposition Union] election campaign.

Bermudez, who was ousted from the FDN leadership on 6 February, stated that the contras were the "best guarantee" to defend a supposed electoral triumph of UNO presidential candidate Violeta Barrios. Bermudez, however, regretted the fact that the destruction of the contra movement's image of unity and strength occurred less than 19 days before the elections.

Bermudez told the foreign press: "The resistance (the contras) should enhance and not diminish strength. For that reason, I regret what has happened." Bermudez added: "There was no need to do that, especially since we are only 19 days from the elections. Those who conducted this action, Franklin and others, will be responsible for its effects on the election campaign."

For his part, former contra spokesman Bosco Matamoros said in Miami that he is tired of these power struggles and that he will not get involved in them. Matamoros said: "Everything that is happening is very regrettable. On the one hand, UNO is unable to get rolling, and, on the other, the combatants (the contras) are experiencing an internal conflict only two weeks before the elections." Matamoros said he will continue living in the United States.

For Matamoros, the ousting of 3-80 [Bermudez] will lead to more power struggles. Matamoros stated: "If Bermudez leaves, there could be a series of rifts, which his presence kept from arising. The various differences inside the movement could rise to the surface."

In Matamoro's opinion, Franklin, the new contra leader, will be unable to maintain a sense of cohesiveness, because there are members of the "General Staff" who have been there for a long time and who could contend with him for power over the medium or long term. Matamoros added: "New internal conflicts could appear at any time."

In Tegucigalpa, Bermudez said he will not recognize the decision of the contra "General Staff" on his ouster as top contra leader because, in his opinion, "they have no right or authority to make such decisions." According to 3-80, the assembly of FDN commanders and mid-level chiefs is the one that should make the decision in a "democratic" manner.

Bermudez said he has no proof that the U.S. Department of State is behind the decision to oust him. Regarding past conflicts [with the Department of State], Bermudez said: "I believe those conflicts have been overcome." Nevertheless, in Miami, Matamoros said U.S. Department of State officials are involved in the decision, because "they have always thought that without Bermudez at the head of the movement, the demobilization would be easier."

Yesterday Bermudez regretted the fact that the division appeared only a few weeks before election day, because they [the contras] were a "guarantee" to pressure the Sandinists to hold fair elections and to supposedly turn over power to UNO.

Bermudez said: "If Mrs. Violeta wins the elections, the existence of the organization (the contra movement) will be good to pressure the Sandinists to turn over not only the government, but all the power." Bermudez added: "We were an important factor to help the victorious, peaceful opposition (UNO) negotiate the control of power."

Nevertheless, Bermudez admitted: "These things have weakened us quite a bit." He added: "Only when I consider that I have nothing else to do here (inside the contra movement) will I go back to my family." Bermudez explained that his wife and children have been living in the United States for approximately 15 years.

11 Feb Press Review on Election Campaign

PA1402043790

[Editorial Report] The government newspaper BARRICADA on pages 1 and 4 reports on a 10 February National Opposition Union (UNO) rally led by presidential candidate Violeta de Chamoro and vice-presidential candidate Virgilio Godoy in Masaya. BARRICADA says that although UNO officials described the event as their

"greatest rally," the turnout was "not even half that of the government rallies." Local and foreign reporters were "astounded" at the "death threats" made by Virgilio Godoy against Sandinist leaders at the rally, the newspaper reports.

According to BARRICADA, Godoy said each vote in the 25 February elections "will be like a rock around the Sandinist commanders' necks to drown them at the bottom of the ocean." Meanwhile, Violeta is quoted as saying: "We are all brothers, and after the 25 February elections, we should all shake hands."

BARRICADA also reports on pages 4 and 5 on a 10 February Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) rally led by Daniel Ortega and Sergio Ramirez in Granada. The newspaper reports that at the rally, Ortega told the people: "Two days ago, 100,000 people roared in the streets of Chinandega. Today you have matched that number." Ortega reportedly called on the people "to stay on the offensive in the campaign, every minute, every day, until we defeat and crush UNO by voting in Box Number Five on 25 February."

The same paper reports on pages 3 and 6 on an UNO rally led by Virgilio Godoy and Violeta de Chamorro in Tipitapa on 10 February. According to the newspaper, Mrs. Chamorro was delayed for two hours and Godoy "took advantage of the delay to start the march through the town without her." Barricada says that when she finally arrived, Mrs. Chamorro addressed the crowd, but it does not carry any statements by either Chamorro or Godoy at the rally.

The opposition newspaper LA PRENSA also carries reports on government and opposition rallies. A report on pages 1 and 12 says that on the morning of 10 February Mrs. Chamorro and Virgilio Godoy held a rally in Boaco, "where 25,000 people thronged to the streets to express their support" for them. According to LA PRENSA, later that day Chamorro and Godoy visited Masaya, where 60,000 people staged a support march for them. Eliseo Nunez, the UNO leader in Masaya, is quoted as saying at the event: "Dona Violeta, the people of Masaya from this moment name you and Godoy president and vice president of the Republic."

On page 12 LA PRENSA reports that the Sandinist government "used 207 trucks to herd people from various parts of the country to the huge rally President Daniel Ortega held in the western part of the country." The newspaper reports that its correspondent at the rally confirmed that many of the people did not even know what city they were in. The report also mentions "government efforts to hinder" the UNO campaign. According to LA PRENSA: "When UNO candidates were scheduled to visit Rivas last week, the government offered to transport residents to the border to meet with their relatives, and on 10 February when UNO scheduled a rally in Masaya, the government provided trucks to take residents to the beach." The report also states that the governemnt attempted to lure Masaya residents away from the UNO rally on 10 February by holding a meeting in Catarina at which, it was said, cooking oil would be distributed among the participants.

Paper Associated With BARRICADA Published

PA1302030690 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0045 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] Managua, 12 February (DPA)—LA TARDE, a tabloid, published by the firm that owns the newspaper BARRICADA, began circulation today. It is basically a propaganda medium for the ruling Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) and will appear for 27 days during this election phase.

LA TARDE is managed by Carlos Fernando Chamorro, who also manages BARRICADA. The tabloid will try to counter the newspaper LA PRENSA, owned by Violeta Chamorro, the National Opposition Union's (UNO) presidential candidate.

Carlos Fernando Chamorro is Violeta Chamorro's son and has been an active FSLN member for more than 10 years.

LA PRENSA has started Sunday publication and has also increased the newspaper's pages, mostly used for propaganda.

In the last days of the electoral campaign, the printed media has increased the number of newspapers and propaganda published. LA PRENSA favors the UNO alliance and EL NUEVO DIARIO, managed by Xavier Chamorro, Violeta Chamorro's brother-in-law and Carlos Fernando Chamorro's uncle, favors the FSLN.

LA CRONICA, a weekly newspaper that maintains a Social Democratic position, attempts to publish reports on the electoral process from different points of view.

The first edition of the 16-page LA TARDE criticizes UNO, saying that its leaders "are fighting over the hide without first cutting up the cow." This refers to a list of 12 persons who allegedly will be UNO ministers if the alliance manages to win the presidential elections.

Sandinist 'Confusion' Compared to Soviet Changes

PA1202132690 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 9 Feb 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Gorbachev Takes Firm Step Toward Democracy"]

[Text] Because of the blanket of superficiality that has covered Nicaragua during the past 10 years, the internal changes in the communist system in the USSR and countries in its orbit have been the subject of trivial and limited comment by BARRICADA and EL NUEVO DIARIO, as busy as the latter is defending its "brilliant" campaign slogan of "GN-1" [play on words with the acronym UNO of National Opposition Union, which means one in Spanish, and GN for Somoza's National Guard].

There is more than superficiality to this, though. The changes in communism are indirectly a sentence to the 10 years of the Sandinist regime. When the copy is not good, it is because the original is defective. A high degree of intelligence is required to cover up the defect. What prevails among Sandinists is confusion and disillusionment. Probably the one who is most worried is Wheelock, the wrecker of the nation's ecomony, because he could swear he was copying the Russian model with his best handwriting and now it turns out that only Castro—who is old and tired—believes in his ideological recipe.

If the nine [Sandinist commanders] had any political acumen, they would ask themselves—after analyzing their sociopolitical failure in Nicaragua and reading the bottom line in communism's changes in Europe—this question: If following the Russians' recipe made us fail, why not study the rectifications?

Gorbachev had the intelligence or political intuition to gauge his people's tiredness in time. Gorbachev foresaw in the USSR what Ceausescu and Honecker failed to see in Romania and the GDR. He was ahead of the tide that neither Ortega nor Wheelock have seen in Nicaragua: He returned to his people the decision-making power that communism—through the fanatical notion of vanguard party and dictatorship of the proletariat—had taken away from them. He opened the door in earnest, and not with the Sandinists' reticence and shenanigans, to a democratization process.

Yesterday, Gorbachev took the most significant step toward change when he managed to get the Central Committee to abolish Article Six of the Constitution, which made the Communist Party the single party and guaranteed it supremacy and a monopoly on power. This article was the barrier to genuine democracy—pluralistic, multiparty democracy open to alteration. This barrier has crumbled.

It is a miracle that, after almost a century of absolute power, the second-ranking powerhouse in the world has decided to end this monopoly. When we see how hard it is for Ortega to risk losing an election—and notice every day how he exerts pressures, persecutes, and makes preparations for a fraud by forcing party poll representatives or councilmen to resign—Gorbachev's gesture takes on grandeur. It is not only because of Gorbachev's sincere wish for democracy, but because of the great political foresight it demonstrates. The Russian gerontocracy, the horrid succession of mediocre Brezhnev-style rulers—infallible and almighty—and the murderous monsters like Stalin and Ceausescu were the end product of totalitarianism and single parties. When continuity becomes entrenched, the most favored candidates are stupidity and crime. Gorbachev has opened the door to change, that is, to intelligence, humanism, and renovation as a system.

And while the Soviet ruler discovers the importance of change for his people, his poor Nicaraguan disciples—Daniel and Sergio—proclaim reelection as the salvation formula. This does indeed bear the GN-1 brand, gentlemen of EL NUEVO DIARIO! Fortunately, secret suffrage exists. It will allow the Nicaraguans to end the monopoly on power, the repetitiveness, and the neo-Somozism by voting for UNO.

Panama

More on Incident With U.S. Troops at University

PA1302164390 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 13 Feb 90 p 24A

[Report by Antonia Edith Gutierrez]

[Text] University students of the FER-29 [Revolutionary Student Front] have reported to LA PRENSA that U.S. troops carried out an incursion into the university campus on the afternoon of 12 February. They said the action violated the autonomy of the University of Panama and could have caused a serious incident.

The students said that if another incident occurs inside the University of Panama because of the presence of foreign troops, they will hold Government and Justice Minister Ricardo Arias Calderon responsible because the new Public Force is under his orders.

Raul Rios, an architecture student, and Jose de Gracia, an economics student, said that just as they protested in the past against the incursion of troops of former General Noriega's Defense Forces, they will do so now against the foreign troops.

The left-wing leaders said that when the U.S. troops entered the campus yesterday afternoon, approximately 50 university students and administrative personnel demanded that they leave, but the troops intimidated them, threatening to arrest them. The troops later closed off the street near the Economics Department with three military vehicles and 15 soldiers.

Belisario Polo, director of student affairs, and members of the General Student Council, had to intervene to calm people down and get the troops to withdraw from the campus.

Arias Calderon Interviewed on Public Force

PA1302030790 Panama City Cadena Exitosa in Spanish 1330 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Interview with Ricardo Arias Calderon, first vice president and government and justice minister, by legislator-elect Raul Ossa in Panama City on 12 February—live]

[Text] [Ossa] Dr. Ricardo Arias Calderon, radio listeners of the "Rebuilding Panama" program must be eager to hear your statements about the country's public security. These free and democratic microphones are at your complete disposal.

[Arias] Thank you very much, Raul, for giving me the opportunity to discuss some of the topics you have

mentioned earlier. I believe it is extremely important for our country's future that we learn the difference between militarism and public security. Militarism is a form of government and life in which military power is above civilian power. That was precisely what we experienced over the past 21 years, until 20 December 1989.

The problem was not only that a single man was in command of the country, but also that the functions of the military, of the public force, and of men in uniform were completely above the civilian authorities. That militarism led to a disastrous dictatorship and to the trauma that all Panamanians have experienced.

For that reason, one of the major tasks of President Guillermo Endara's government concerning the public force is to make sure we never again experience a militaristic system and way of life.

Militarism is, however, different from our concern over public security. I believe that all Panamanians, all those who lived the days that followed the U.S. military actions—those days of anarchy, vandalism, and the beginnings of urban guerrillas—all those who are concerned about the crime wave that has resulted from that trauma, are aware that we need public security.

What does it mean to have public security? It means many things. I will only mention some. Public security includes protection of the lives, honor, and goods of all Panamanians. Public security means maintenance of public order while respecting human rights and the prevention of crime, including robberies, personal attacks, and abuses. Public security means the peaceful and free exercise of citizens' individual and social rights and duties. Public security means government officials and employees are given the necessary support to carry out their work and govern for the common good. Public security means the law and traffic regulations have to be followed by all cars and vehicles on all public roads. Public security means trying to keep the thousands of weapons distributed by the dictatorship throughout the country from being turned against the population. Public security implies being vigilant to confront groups, such as the Dignity Battalions, that were trained in many fields to carry out urban guerrilla warfare and that now how to use the weapons that were distributed throughout the country. Public security means preparing ourselves to prevent the violence of drug trafficking from reaching our country, as it has reached our fraternal country of Colombia and left such painful consequences. Public security also means keeping a watch over other countries, for example, Fidel Castro's Cuba, so it does not try to disturb and subvert the democratic government of Panama.

All these things are part of what we call public security and, Raul, I believe we Panamanians are determined to do two things. First, Panamanians are determined to never again live under militarism as we had to live and suffer over the past years. However, I also believe that Panamanians are likewise determined to create a climate of democratic social security in which we can attain reconciliation and reconstruct our economy.

[Ossa] Right Dr. Arias, from your statements we have gathered and agree that the Government and Justice Ministry is not trying to reconstruct militarism in Panama, but exactly the opposite. The Government and Justice Ministry is adverse to the position of militarism, but is reconstructing public security conditions, so we can live peacefully and with security in our society.

[Arias] That is precisely the objective of President Endara's government, through the Government and Justice Ministry. Let me talk to you a little about Cabinet Decree 38, which the Cabinet approved unanimously on 10 February. First, it is important to realize that this Cabinet decree is not an organic law of the Public Force, because that is the responsibility of the Legislative Assembly, once it is inaugurated. The democratic government cannot replace the Legislative Assembly. There must be a national debate in the Legislative Assembly on the Public Force, on its functions, and on its organization. It would not be too democratic to have the Cabinet Council adopt a decree making it unnecessary to hold discussion on the topic of the Public Force, its duties, and its organization. We wanted to be practical and respectful at the same time. We had to adopt a decree at this very moment that would regulate the Public Force until the Legislative Assembly could approve an organic law, otherwise we would be operating under Law 20, the law of the dictatorship and the law of the military regime. We had to overcome that stage, but at the same time, what we were doing was not drafting, writing, and approving the organic law of the Public Force. That will be up to the Legislative Assembly. The executive may submit a draft, but the discussion and the final approval will be up to the Legislative Assembly. Therefore, this decree, by which the Public Force is organized, is a decree that will lead us from the present until debate in the Legislative Assembly takes place.

I believe it is worthwhile to discuss the spirit of this decree and then answer your questions. It is the spirit of the demilitarization of the Public Force. I would like to read some of the articles of this decree, because it clearly shows its spirit of demilitarization.

Article 1 reads: The Public Force of the Republic of Panama is organized with the technical and professional responsibility for public security and national defense. It does not have political or citizen's responsibilities. That is not the responsibility of the Public Force. The Public Force has only technical and professional responsibilities. It adds: The Public Force answers directly to the executive branch and its actions will be subject to the Constitution and laws of the Republic with full respect for human rights as a safeguard and support of democratic institutions. That is Article 1 of Decree 38. It is a deeply civic article. It is a deeply democratic article, but for people not to have any doubts, there is Article 2 on the role of the president with regard to the Public Force.

Article 2 reads: The president of the Republic is the supreme chief of the Public Force. He will rule over the

Public Force through decrees, rules, orders, and instructions. I note all of this. He is the supreme chief of the Public Force. The article also states the ways he can exercise his power decrees, rules, orders, and instructions. There is no doubt as to who gives the orders, according to this decree. The person with supreme command is not a military officer, but the president of the Republic, who was freely and legitimately elected by a majority of the Panamanian people. There is even more. The article adds: The president, alone, is responsible for the preservation of public order, just as our Constitution states. He does not have to consult with anyone to issue orders in matters of public order. The president is invested with the authority given to him and to him alone by the Constitution. The article adds that, with the participation of the corresponding minister, the president will appoint and remove the leaders, officers, and members, of the Public Force; grant promotions in accordance with the respective wage and rank scale; and give instructions as to the use of the Public Force. It is important to realize how broad the president's authority is, in this case, with the corresponding minister. The president can appoint and remove leaders, officers, and members of the Public Force; grant promotions according to the wage and rank scale, and give instructions on the use of the Public Force as the Constitution provides.

Whoever reads this stipulation in good faith has before his eyes a true text on the demilitarization of the Public Force.

[Ossa] It is all very clear, Dr. Arias. The text leaves no doubt in the reader's mind that the militaristic concept has been done away with completely and a rigorous civilist stand has been presented in which the Public Force leaders are completely subordinated to civil authorities.

[Arias] This subordination, Raul, has yet another aspect that is typical of a demilitarization strategy. One of the most serious problems with militarism is that it concentrates all the power of the Public Force on a single organ. This decree assumes a stand contrary to the concentration of power that marks militarism. Article 4 of the decree reads: Until the organic law is adopted—I repeat this is up to the National Assembly—the Public Force will consist of the National Police, the National Air Service, and the National Maritime Service, each with its own command and salary and rank scale, under the authority of and dependent on the executive branch directly through the Minister of Government and Justice. What does this mean? There will no longer be a single public security organ, but at least three services different from each other, each with its own command, each with its own wage and rank scale, each dependent on the executive branch through the Minister of Government and Justice. These three services include the National Police, and the National Air Service—this is the specific name selected. It will not be an air force, much less an air force embedded in defense forces under the command of a single man. It is now the National Air Service, apart from the National Police, and with its own command and wage and rank scale. Third, we will have the National Maritime Service. It will no longer be a navy embedded in the defense forces and commanded by a single man, but the National Maritime Service, with its own command and wage and rank scale.

So we are set on a decentralization course within the Public Force, rather than on a centralization course, a policy preferred by and imposed by Noriega. This is the outline of a Public Force of and for democracy. The previous organization was a defense force of and for the dictatorship.

[Ossa] One of the leading issues in the commentaries on and criticisms against the demilitarization has been that a simple change of name cannot change things if the structure and functions of those things do not truly change. I notice there are now a National Air Service and a National Maritime Service. Broadly speaking, how can we describe the functions of these services as compared with the previous structure and functions?

[Arias] I think your point is valid. Had we changed the names leaving the functions untouched, we would have done absolutely nothing. Article 6 of this decree defines the functions of the National Police this way. I expect much attention to be paid so the great change in the functions can be appreciated. The article reads like this. The National Police, as an agent of the authorities—not as the authority—will protect the lives, honor, and property of the population; keep public order and security and prevent the perpetration of crime; cooperate with authorities to ensure the effectiveness of the individual social rights and duties; support authorities and other public servants in fulfilling their functions; and regulate traffic on public highways according to the law and traffic regulations. All of these functions have to do with a police service in a modern, dynamic, and pluralist society.

What does the decree say about the National Air Service? Is this perhaps a new name for the Air Force? I will read Article 9 for you. The National Air Service will have the specific function of transportation through the air in support of government agencies, socioeconomic development programs of the national government, the functions of the National Police, and activities related to search and rescue operations and the evacuation of people in the event of air and sea disasters brought about by natural causes. This is to say, it is a transportation service that the Panamanian state organizes to get assistance in its civilian government activities related to its socioeconomic development programs, police work, and evacuation in case of disaster. These functions are totally different from those of an air force. Something similar is said about...

[Ossa, interrupting] The functions of an air force are of war.

[Arias] Correct.

[Ossa] These functions are typically militaristic—functions that have been eliminated from the new Public Force regulations.

[Arias] Similarly, the National Maritime Service is defined as a one of transportation by sea with the same purpose as the transportation by air of the National Air Service. Something specific, however, is stipulated. It is said that this service will also act as a maritime police, particularly to prevent piracy, illegal fishing, contraband, and illegal immigration, all in support of the corresponding agencies. In this area, there is a need for what is described as a coast guard in other countries, a sort of maritime police. According to the decree, the National Maritime Service can perform this function in support of the corresponding agencies, for instance, the General Customs Directorate and the Immigration and Naturalization Directorate. So we have made profound changes in the functions of these Public Force services. This is why the population and all of us Panamanians can rest assured that the government headed by Guillermo Endara is committed to a profound demilitarization task.

[Ossa] Thank you, Doctor. Dr. Ricardo Arias Calderon's comments are very interesting and are being broadcast to you on your program, "Reconstructing Panama", and on Radio Exitosa's frequencies that are now free and democratic. It also comes to you via Radio Estereo Oeste on 98.5 FM. We return now to Dr. Arias Calderon.

Doctor, we have observed that the decree specifically regulates three Public Force functions. These are the National Police, Air Service, and Maritime Service. However, we are concerned and would like to know what happened to the National Department of Investigations [DENI]? What happened to the Judicial Technical Police, known as the PTJ, that was planned? Where does Cabinet Decree 38 of 10 February 1990 leave these units?

[Arias] First, as I had said previously, this decree does not attempt to replace the laws regulating these organizations that are to be approved by the National Assembly. Democracy is not attained by replacing the legislative branch with the executive branch. Regarding DENI, the decree only states that from now on, it will be called PTJ, that it has been provisionally placed under the Government and Justice Ministry, and that, until the corresponding law has been approved, it will operate in accordance with existing laws. What we have temporarily tried to do is transfer DENI, under its new name PTJ, out of the Public Force field. DENI, or now the PTJ, is no longer a part of the Public Force. Thus, we are getting ready to assign the PTJ to the government's legal institutions, to the national Attorney General's Office. I have already spoken with the attorney general and have asked his office to prepare the PTJ's organizational law. Once that project is ready, it will be sent to the National Assembly for it to pass legislation on the PTJ matter.

The national government's political intentions are: 1) To get the PTJ out of the public force. 2) To prepare its transfer to the government's legal institutions. 3) To ensure that the National Assembly—as the nation's basic legislative branch—approves an organizational law for the PTJ, since this will give it definite civilian bylaws. Thus, we have not forgotten the PTJ or DENI, but, in a responsible manner, we have prepared for its transfer to the government's legal institutions.

[Ossa] Your explanation is very clear. As a legislator-elect and member of an important legislative group, I am very interested in the decrees approved by the cabinet. We are under the impression that, at present, legislation is carried out through decrees, and we have to follow these decrees very closely so we can approve them later in the National Assembly. We were interested to learn about the PTJ and DENI, because we had the impression that they were going to be governed by the actual special law that regulates DENI, and that these institutions themselves would not be touched. However, your explanation was very clear, especially after reading Article 5, which creates the national penitentiary system and stipulates that the organization of the PTJ will be assigned to the government's legal institutions. Thus, Panama will not have a DENI that is militaristic and directed by military leaders, but a PTJ that is directed by civilians and subordinated to... [changes thought] This civilian aspect is not a political concept. It is basically a technical one that means that it is subordinate to civilian authority or the government's legal institutions.

Dr. Arias Calderon, there is another matter to which we must pay close attention. We want to ask you about it for the benefit of our listeners so they can learn what is being done at present. The decree stipulates that so-called special units will be formed. These units give the impression that their task will entail more than simple police activity. It seems to be inclined a bit more to the use of military force. What can you tell us about this?

[Arias] I would like to read to you the corresponding article and then give you an explanation of it. Article 7 of the decree says the following: With the approval of the country's president and government and justice minister, special National Police units can be organized to guard the borders and protect our national integrity; to protect the Panama Canal according to the 1977 canal treaties and in accordance with Foreign Ministry instructions on the interpretation of these treaties; and to protect and support democratic institutions that are mentioned in the Constitution. The decree says: These units will be organized in such a way that they may be separated from the National Police, if the law so stipulates. The country has certain security needs that cannot be met by a regular police force whose purpose is essentially to protect the people's lives, honor, and possessions from common criminals.

For example, it is necessary to protect the borders, and anyone who knows Darien Province is aware of what this entails. Darien Province is exposed to infiltration by Colombian drug traffickers and guerrilla fighters. The

protection of our border in Darien Province is particularly difficult and can be dangerous. It requires the creation of a specially trained unit, and it may also involve special equipment.

Moreover, the Torrijos-Carter treaties state the need to provide protection for the Panama Canal. I have used the word protection for the Panama Canal because we are not talking about a special unit for a strategic defense of the canal. This would be absurd in a country that wants its canal to be neutral. However, protection of the canal is certainly required. This might require a special unit. Anyway, in either of the two cases, the creation of that unit would need the explicit approval of the president of the Republic and the minister of government and justice. The creation of this unit cannot be carried out based on an internal decision within the National Police.

Furthermore, since we are living in a world full of threats to our democratic institutions, we must think about the vast number of weapons distributed by the dictatorship throughout the country. We must think about the irregular paramilitary organizations that the dictatorship formed in our country. We must think about the international links with the most radical elements that the dictatorship formed in our country.

We must think about all that and we will realize that—God forbid this ever happens—this might someday represent a danger to the democratic institutions of our Constitution, thus making it necessary to create a specially trained unit. I am thinking about the antiterrorist units that police forces sometimes have. All this is part of the public protection that the government must provide the country as stipulated in the Constitution.

We are adopting the precaution that these special units cannot be created based on an internal decision within the National Police. It requires the specific approval of the president of the Republic and the minister of government and justice. Second, we warn that if these still nonexistent units are ever developed; if they have to be developed beyond the necessary limit given the dangerous situation arising in the country—God forbid that this ever happens; and if these units are ever separated from the National Police, as decreed by law.... [changes thought] Who makes the law? The National Assembly, the representatives chosen by the people throughout the country. We are not predicting a decision that the National Assembly might adopt in the future in any given circumstance. We are saying that the door is being left open so the Panamanian people's representatives in the legislative branch can deal with the problem—whenever the problem arises and according to the specific situation.

[Ossa] Friendly listeners, we want to discuss another very important matter. At the beginning of this conversation, Dr. Ricardo Arias Calderon made a distinction regarding whether or not the Public Force may have a deliberative function at any given time. He was speaking of the technical responsibilities of the Public Force in the area of public safety. He ruled out a deliberative function for that force, and we want to focus on this to see what explanations he can give us with regard to the subordination of the Public Force to established civilian authorities. How does Cabinet Decree 38 deal with this situation?

[Arias] You have touched on two points, Raul, and I think they are very important. Article 15 of the Cabinet decree makes a statement that the Panamanian people were clamoring for. It states the following, and I am going to read the entire article, because it has enormous civic significance. The Public Force is not deliberative—precisely because it is a technical and professional organization—and its members will under no circumstance intervene in party politics, except for the casting of their votes. This is taken from the Constitution, but we added other things. The leaders and officers of the Public Force will not exercise coercion of any kind over the members of the force when they cast their votes in elections. Consequently, none of the members will be able to participate in political activities of any kind, or form part of any political party, or make any partisan or political statements. They also may not participate in public posts, directorates, or boards of directors outside of the branch of the Public Force to which they belong, except as provided in international treaties and future laws.

In other words, the Public Force is not deliberative. Its members may not participate in politics, other than to cast their votes. The leaders or officers cannot coerce the members. None of the members may make political or partisan statements while working for the institution. Once they retire, it is a different matter. They also may not hold public office or positions on directorates or boards of directors unless this is established in international treaties or in a future law approved by the democratic assembly. Once again, this shows respect for that assembly.

That is a very important point. Moreover, for the first time, an attempt has been made to touch on a topic that is very important for the management of the National Police: its relations with civilian authorities at the provincial, municipal, and corregimiento levels. Article 8 of the decree says two things, namely: The National Police will act in consultation and coordination with civilian authorities at the provincial, municipal, and corregimiento levels and, as an agent of those authorities, it will obey the orders dictated by the authorities in the exercise of their legal functions. These are two very important things. It means that a National Police unit that is stationed in a province, a municipality, or a corregimiento has to consult and coordinate with the civilian authorities on its activities and, further, when those civilian authorities issue orders in the exercise of their legal functions, orders that require the support of the National Police, the police have to obey those orders. If a mayor, in carrying out his legal activities as mayor were to order a member of the National Police to arrest an individual, and is giving that order as part of his legal functions, that member of the National Police has to obey that order. Similarly, if a governor makes a decision in any area that is within his legal functions, and that

decision requires the support of the National Police, then he can order the police to give that support, and the police have to provide the support.

Therefore, two things are being covered: the general need for the National Police to act in consultation and coordination with local authorities, and, moreover, it is being clearly established that when those local authorties require police support in the exercise of their legal functions, the police have to provide that support and obey the orders given in that regard by the legal authority.

It surprises me that that Article 8 has been cited in part. This morning, I read a comment saying the National Police would act in consultation and coordination with civilian authorities at the provincial, municipal, and corregimiento levels, and the rest was omitted. That is not a serious discussion of the subject.

[Ossa] In other words, the part that says that the police would act as an agent of authority was omitted.

[Arias] Exactly.

[Ossa] Then you are right, because that is a basic part of the article since it explains that the National Police is an institution that is subordinate to civilian authority and has to obey the orders of civilian authorities.

[Arias] What this does not allow is for a civilian authority at the provincial, municipal, or corregimiento level to interfere with the internal structure of the National Police as an institution, and put himself in the place of that internal structure in the area of the institution's internal discipline. If we did this, we would end up without any police force at all. What we would have is a police force splintered into 510 units corresponding to the 510 corregimientos, and I do not believe this would guarantee the public safety of citizens.

Therefore, the authority of the governor, mayor, and corregimiento representative is not part of the internal discipline of the institution, meaning the Education Ministry, the Health Ministry, Housing Ministry, Public Works Ministry, or any other ministry. We are also not stating in the decree that legally instituted local authorities should become part of the National Police's internal organization. However, we are saying that when those local representatives exercise their authority and require the National Police's support to carry out their orders, the National Police has to obey those orders.

[Ossa] Very clear. Let us review another important aspect of the situation. I perceive lots of apprehension in a sector of the population because the Public Force is composed—almost entirely—of former FDP [Panama Defense Forces] members. This apprehension is the result of the community's belief that the former FDP members have a regimentation, a military mentality, that cannot be changed quickly to a civilian mentality. We would like to hear Dr. Ricardo Arias Calderon's comments on the issue—not only to assuage the community's fears but to analyze the scope of the cabinet decree concerning the rights and duties of the former FDP members who are now members of the Public Force.

[Arias] I believe this issue, which arises once in a while, has to be discussed frankly and honestly. No Latin American country that has achieved democracy in the last 20 years has tried what we are trying. All the countries that have achieved democracy in the last two decades—Peru, Ecuador, Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil, Chile, Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador—have left their armed forces intact.

Those armed forces supported dictatorships, yet they remained intact, except for some changes in the higher ranks, so they would support those countries' democracies. Not one single Latin American country has failed to do this in the last 20 years—except us. We are going deeper than any other Latin American country has tried to go in the last two decades.

We have taken personnel who comprised the dictatorship's FDP and, first of all, submitted them to an evaluation that has resulted in the discharging and retirement of many officers and an increasing number of members. In addition, we have thoroughly changed their functions and their role, from a developmental Army to a National Police, a National Air Service, and a National Maritime Service.

The Panamanian people must realize that we are doing something we should feel proud of. We are doing it Panamanian style, among Panamanians, but it goes deeper than what was done by Peru, Uruguay, Argentina, Brazil, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and what Chile is doing. I believe this is an important point.

There is a second point that I believe is equally important. The trauma we have all endured was not only endured by the civilians. God knows the civilians have endured a trauma. I endured it along with many other Panamanians; my wife endured it; my children endured it; all the members of my family endured it; all the members of my party endured it; my friends endured it; and thousands of Panamanians endured it.

That trauma, however, was also suffered by many members of Noriega's FDP. Do you think we can forget that they suffered internal persecutions, incarcerations, tortures, and murders? Do you think we can forget that life in the FDP was full of fear and even terror because of the way the institution was handled internally, in the hands of Noriega? What about the Panamanian personnel, who then numbered 16,000 to 17,000 and who now number less than 14,000, on the way to 13,000? Those Panamanians also lived through the trauma of the U.S. military action and the days of vandalism, anarchy, and foolish urban guerrilla warfare. Civilians suffered the trauma, but those members of the FDP also lived through it in their own way. If one has a Panamanian and Christian feeling, then we must realize that not only we are able to change, are able to learn, are able to live through an experience and give our life a new meaning, but that others can do so also. If there is something that is

profoundly Christian, it is to always believe that the struggle against sin is not a struggle against the sinner. We must always leave the sinner the option of changing the meaning of his life.

I believe that those FDP members who felt the rejection of the people—who still feel it—have in their own way been subjected to a learning experience. If we Panamanians act as we should and we manage to accelerate the country's reconstruction and reconciliation, we will then be able to integrate those Panamanians into our fatherland's future and not have to say to them: You are condemned to be victims of your past forever—as if we were God, the supreme judge, and as if we were to take upon ourselves the final judgment.

We have spoken of national reconstruction and reconciliation, but do we really believe what we have said? I do believe in this. I believe in the country's reconstruction, but I also believe in the country's reconciliation. The country's reconciliation is not just words. It means allowing the other person to change, to allow the other person to join in what lies ahead. It means giving every Panamanian the opportunity through the legal system—not by bypassing the law—so he may also be a citizen in our fatherland's future.

[Ossa] Doctor, what would happen if these people were denied the right to take part in this reconciliation process? Would that not be forcing them to take other more dangerous ways to make a living, and would this not be a public security problem?

[Arias] That is another very important point, Raul, and I am glad you mentioned it. What would happen in Panama today, if—as some unthinkingly say, and I know they say it in good faith, but I fear they say it somewhat negligently—all of Noriega's FDP members were fired? Two very clear things would happen: We would be forcing them to attempt something out of desperation and frustration. I am not sure just what, but I do not like thinking about what frustrated and desperate people might try; people who are told by us: You have no future; you are condemned because of your past and there is no possibility for change. So, why not attempt absurd and crazy things if society totally rejects them? That is a grave danger. Then, on top of it all, do you believe we would then have security? Do you believe that recruiting, training, preparing, and organizing a national police from the ground up takes days, weeks, or months? What sort of world would we be living in if we thought that way? I will tell you: in a world that is conceptually very pure but very far removed from true reality, removed from human things, removed from the true reality of the society we belong to and the dangers we face.

Of course we are running risks, Raul, with the policies we are following. Is there liberty without risk? Is there democracy without risk? Can we build a future without risk? Can we have reconciliation without risk? If two brothers quarrel—even if there is violence—and then decide later that they are more brothers than enemies, is not one brother risking himself with the other? Would it not have been better if Cain and Abel had reconciled their differences, thus averting Cain's killing of Abel? Would it not have been better if Abel's heirs—instead of separating from Cain's heirs and becoming enemies, as the Bible says—had found the true sense of fraternity? Fraternity is a risk because it is the fraternity of free people. Fraternity is a risk, but I prefer to run the risk of fraternity than to run the risk of indefinite enmity.

[Ossa] Well friends, we are rebuilding Panama through the free and democratic Radio Exitosa and through Radio Estereo Oeste on 98.5 FM. Here with us today is Dr. Ricardo Arias Calderon, who has given us interesting explanations of the new decree governing the Public Force. There is another important matter, Doctor, that our listeners would like to hear about. Last weekend, 19 people were wounded with firearms in the capital. This indicates to us that criminal activity is on the rise. It would seem that so far it has not been possible for the Public Force to provide adequate security for the people. In addition, there is another problem: The media has reported an apparent indifference on the part of some Public Force members in the face of the crime wave. What can the minister of government and justice and the vice president of the Republic tell us about this?

[Arias] I think a lot of what you have described reflects reality, and my job as minister of government and justice is not to cover up the truth but to try to overcome problems to achieve an improvement. However, let us look at some of the conditions affecting the police, above all in the metropolitan area. I believe there is more crime today than at other times for various reasons. First, because many more weapons are available to the criminals; and second, because of the trauma of the disintegration of the Defense Forces, which exercised a certain amount of control over society. We are now in the process of forming a new Public Force, which has not yet achieved maximum organization and development as a police force. It is in the process of getting there. Third, I believe that crime has increased, or rather our awareness of crime has increased, because there is total freedom of expression, and it is no longer possible to cover up the acts of crime, as they were covered up under the dictatorship. Therefore, everything that happens is public knowledge, and that is as it should be. Everything that happens is discussed, and that is as it should be.

Now, what is the status of the metropolitan police in the face of this phenomenon of crime, the increase in which is partly real, and partly an increase in our perception of it? There are approximately 4,500 policemen in the metropolitan area. However, there is no longer an Army in the barracks. The police force is now working 8-hour shifts like all government employees, and that is as it should be. Therefore, precisely because we do not have an Army in the barracks, and we do not have 4,500 policemen available at every moment.... [changes thought] We have less than than one-third of that number, because normally there must be three shifts and, in addition, there must be other members in case

someone on one of the shifts is sick. Therefore, because we no longer have an Army in the barracks, but instead we have a police force that is working shifts, the number of policemen available at any time is fewer than one-third the total number of policemen.

However, we lack a number of resources that are indispensable for a police force. I believe the police uniforms will finally arrive this week, and the uniform has an important effect on the community and on the person who is wearing it. That factor has been missing, and we hope to resolve it this week, God willing.

[Ossa] Just out of curiosity, what will the uniforms of the new police force look like?

[Arias] You will see it soon. It will be a policeman's uniform.

[Ossa] For policemen, which means that it will not be a military uniform.

[Arias] Right. Second, we have not had portable radios for policemen who are on foot patrols or in patrol cars to communicate with their bases. It is very important to have these radios, because when a citizen reports a problem by telephone, the base could immediately contact a policeman on foot or in a patrol car and send him to the scene at once. However, we have practically no portable radios left. They were destroyed or vandalized. We are trying to obtain those portable radios to improve the police service.

Third, practically no automobiles are left for patrols. There was a time last week when there were only 41 cars in the entire metropolitan area for mobile patrols. Thank God, private enterprise sectors who realized the need to improve this situation began to loan us vehicles, and we hope to increase the number of patrols in vehicles beginning this week.

Fourth, today's criminals have large-caliber weapons. Some have AK-47's. Sometimes they are carrying hand grenades, while our policemen are using weapons less powerful than AK-47's and grenades, and we have not wanted to drastically step up the power of those weapons, precisely because we are in a process of demilitarization, and we do not want the people to fear a remilitarization. However, it will undoubtedly be necessary to increase the caliber of weapons being used by some members of the metropolitan police if the criminals continue to commit acts of violence with large-caliber weapons.

And there is another factor, a resource that is more important than all the preceding ones, Raul. It is the understanding and support of the community. No community can have security and prevent crime simply by means of a police force. The entire community can prevent crime by supporting and cooperating with its police force.

We will succeed in improving security to the extent that the people understand the demilitarization that we are carrying out, that the members of the new Public Force adopt a new attitude, and that the population cooperates with the Public Force in implementing all of these measures. Meanwhile, however, we are improving the situation. The metropolitan police are already patrolling the various districts on foot and in cars. Newspaper headlines no longer report successful, but rather unsuccessful assaults.

[Ossa] Attempted assaults.

[Arias] Yes, attempted assaults. This is very important. Also, beginning today, applications for firearm permits are being received at the PTJ office in Ancon. The carrying of firearms has been regulated by a decree. We have done this because we believe that the great majority of citizens who take the trouble to apply for a permit to carry firearms wants to abide by the law and to defend themselves rather than breaking the law and attacking others. Instructions have been issued to the effect that, for the first 90 days, beginning on 15 February, it will not be necessary to submit an invoice or a document attesting to the firearm's ownership to apply for a permit to carry that particular firearm. Why have we done this? Because we are sure that, during the last days of the dictatorship and more recently, a large number of decent citizens acquired firearms by any means at their disposal to protect themselves, and now they cannot produce a sales receipt or a document stating that the firearm was given to them. So we have allowed 90 days, beginning on 15 February, to apply for a permit to bear firearms without having to present a proof-of-ownership document.

I want to issue a warning, however. A firearm can serve for defense, but it can also represent a danger. Everyone who files an application to bear firearms acquires a serious responsibility to himself, his relatives, and the other citizens. He has the great responsibility of using his firearm only in the extreme case of having to defend himself.

I am sure most Panamanians will do just that. However, we must repeat over and over again: This vast distribution of weapons, especially by the dictatorship, is worrisome. In response to this distribution of weapons by the dictatorship, we are allowing all citizens to bear arms.

I hope that with time, and with an effective National Police, we will soon attain, God willing, such a sense of security that we will not have to bother to bear arms.

[Ossa] We have reached the end of our program, which today has been dedicated to explain to our listeners, in the words of Ricardo Arias Calderon, vice president of the Republic and minister of government and justice, the new structure of the Public Force. This topic is so important and interesting to the nation's reconstruction that it requires much more time than this. We, therefore, extend an open invitation to Vice Presdient Arias Calderon and to his advisers to return to our free and democratic microphones to give us further explanations whenever they wish .

Dr. Ricardo Arias Calderon, we have come to the end of our program, unfortunately, and we would like you to make some closing remorks to our listeners.

[Arias] Before concluding this interview, I believe, Raul, that the best thing would be to read the criteria that the Cabinet members had in mind before issuing the decree on the Public Force. These criteria allow us to grasp the profound significance of this decree. I will now read the whereas section of the decree:

Whereas:

The overwhelming majority of Panamanians are crying out for no national army and for doing away with all vestiges of militarism and human rights violations, repression, disrespect for the people's will and the country's democratic institutions established by our Constitution, and of the additional burden that the military represented for the public treasury;

The Panamanian state must protect the lives, honor, and goods of all citizens wherever they may be and of all foreigners under its jurisdiction. The Panamanian state must also guarantee public security and national defense;

The Cabinet decrees... Then the document goes on to its resolution section. These are the two most important reasons for issuing this decree. One is the demilitarization of our country's public security, while guaranteeing our country's public security. It would be very irresponsible on the part of our democratic government to demilitarize the country while depriving it of public security. If we did that, we would seal democracy's fate; in other words, we would guarantee its end.

A democratic system that lacks a firm attitude toward crime and that does not provide public security with full respect for human rights cannot last, because society cannot exist without a public security force that respects human rights. The intention of this cabinet decree is to provide our country with public security. This decree, however, is awaiting passage by the Panamanian Legislative Assembly, which is the sovereign legislative organ of the Panamanian people, to issue the organizational law that the Panamanian Public Force needs. Thank you very much.

Argentina

Romero on Security Doctrine, 'Restructuring'

PY1302133090 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1900 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] Puerto Belgrano, Buenos Aires, 12 Feb (DYN)—Defense Minister Humberto Romero today stressed that the government of Carlos Menem "is a friend of the Armed Forces" and that the government "wants our defense industry to rank among the best in the world."

In a speech addressed to troops of the Second Navy Infantry Battalion, headquartered in Puerto Belgrano, the minister said that the government "wants to increase the nation's greatness" and that at the Defense Ministry, the Armed Forces will find "understanding and dedicated effort, with which we will restore the confidence and respect our country should enjoy in the international community."

The minister stressed the significance of his visit to the base "because of the importance of this strategic site for our country," because it is Argentina's most powerful air naval base, and because "it is my first visit to a military unit since I was designated defense minister."

Romero was accompanied by Chief of the Navy General Staff Admiral Jorge Ferrer; Rear Admiral Jose Tejo, naval area commander for Puerto Belgrano; and Naval Operations Commander Oscar Albino.

Before addressing the troops, the minister viewed Navy infantry equipment and personnel. He also observed a computerized tactical simulator that was developed by the Navy with its own technology. The simulator is used for training sea fleet commanders.

During his long tour of the base, the minister observed a simulated landing of Super Etendard planes on a simulated 25 de mayo aircraft carrier. The carrier is now being modernized in Rio Santiago. The Navy commanders informed the minister of the Navy's needs for financial resources and new equipment.

This was Romero's first visit to a military unit since he took over as defense minister two weeks ago. He is scheduled to visit an Air Force unit in Cordoba on 14 February.

The minister arrived at the base, 700 km south of the federal capital, on a special plane. He was accompanied by Adm. Jorge Ferrer. Before leaving the metropolitan airport, the minister admitted that "the equipment of the Armed Forces does not match our national situation." He added that "a major national restructuring stage will be started, and we want a modern Army, a well-equipped Navy, and an Air Force with the power it had in the past, all for defensive purposes."

The minister told journalists that it is not necessary to amend the law for the defense of democracy. He noted that he is unfamiliar with the national security doctrine that guided the Armed Forces during a substantial part of the sixties and thereafter, until the advent of Raul Alfonsin's democratic government on 1 December 1983.

Asked whether the national security doctrine "has been rejected forever," Romero said that "on the day I find a clear explanation of this doctrine, I will give an answer." He added: "I want to make it clear that I have carried out several investigations. I am known to be a politician, but I have not yet found anyone who can tell me the exact meaning of this famous national security doctrine."

In response to another question, he stressed that "it is not necessary" to amend the law for the defense of democracy to allow the Armed Forces to intervene in internal conflicts. He mentioned as an example the action against the seizure of the La Tablada regiment in January 1990 [date as received].

Romero said that on that occasion, President Alfonsin enforced the regulations of the currently valid Defense Law. He noted, however, that Congress "still owes" the approval of eight laws that will supplement the defense law. One of the supplementary laws deals with internal security.

Romero denied that the military commanders have asked the government of Carlos Menem to amend the law for the defense of democracy. After stressing that the relations between President Carlos Menem and the Armed Forces commanders have been "excellent and at an optimum level since the beginning," he noted that "we are at the start of a major reorganization of the Armed Forces, which will be modernized and provided with the appropriate equipment, as befits a democratic nation."

Foreign Ministry Official Leaves for Iran

PY1402111090 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] Karim Yoma, secretary of special affairs of the Argentine Foreign Ministry, today left for Iran. He is heading an Argentine delegation of private businessmen and representatives of public enterprises.

The trip, which follows an invitation by the Iranian Foreign Ministry, seeks to improve trade and political links with Iran. Yoma will also try to reach economic and commercial agreements, mainly in the areas of oil and agriculture.

An agreement with Iran will lead to the creation of an Argentine-Iranian mixed commission that will implement the agreements. Argentine businessmen will also make contact with Iranian businessmen and government officials and exchange ideas on how to improve trade between the two countries.

Fappiano Appointed Social Action Secretary

PY1302173290 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Summary] Oscar Fappiano was appointed social action secretary today. He replaces Ruben Cardozo, who tendered his resignation.

Rico Sets Sights on Buenos Aires Province

PY1402002390 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 13 Feb 90 p 11

[Text] (NA-DYN) Former Lieutenant-Colonel Aldo Rico plans to run for governor of Buenos Aires in the 1991 elections, and will reportedly launch his political career by taking a stand against the reform of the provincial constitution in the upcoming plebiscite.

Rico will be representing the Buenos Aires Renewalist Party—which goes by the same name which current Buenos Aires Governor Antonio Cafiero used in his '87 race against Herminio Iglesias—as well as other political groupings that are not recognized by the electoral courts, political sources revealed.

The Renewalist Party is a small grouping whose best known leader is former national deputy Horacio Cambareri. His term expired last December and he became notorious for expressing support for the three military uprisings during the last government.

FRG Grants Loan for Nuclear Plant Construction

PY1302160690 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1002 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 Feb (TELAM)—President Carlos Menem has signed a decree approving a loan for the continued financing of the construction of the Atucha-2 nuclear plant being built by the National Atomic Energy Commission (CNEA) in Zarate County, Buenos Aires Province.

This was reported by the CNEA press office, which also indicated that "these 200 million Deutsche marks will allow us to continue the construction of the nuclear plant and will contribute toward the hiring of more local labor." The CNEA also indicated that "the decree establishes that our country will contribute matching funds equivalent to the amount of the loan."

The CNEA finally highlights "the confidence that has been shown by the German credit institutions, which will thus support the productive revolution that has been announced by the president."

Bolivia

Paz Discusses Coca's Role in Nation's Economy

PY1302223090 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2051 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] La Paz, 13 Feb (EFE)—President Jaime Paz Zamora today admitted that the "coca economy" in Bolivia is "inseparable" from the national economy and that, therefore, all-encompassing coca replacement programs must be implemented.

Speaking during a luncheon with foreign journalists, Paz Zamora said: "The implementation of an alternative program to the coca economy presupposes structural changes in the national economy." Paz made this statement just three days before the "summit" on drug trafficking that will be held in Cartagena de Indias, (Colombia, on 15 February) and that will be attended by the presidents of the United States, Bolivia, Colombia, and Peru.

Paz Zamora stated that the "coca economy" in Bolivia has a direct impact on investment programs, on exports, on incomes, on jobs, and on the balance of payments, "and it even has an impact on the dollar rate."

Paz Zamora added: "If Bolivia fulfills its commitments and the international community does the same, we will have a completely different country than we have today."

According to official figures based on 1987 information, coca production generates $1.422 billion per year in Bolivia. This is 24 percent of the GDP. Only between $500 to $600 million, however, remains in the country.

Paz Zamora stated: "Not only must we replace a hectare of coca with a hectare of coffee or oranges, but all-encompassing replacement programs must be implemented because the coca economy is inseparable from the national economy."

According to official information, Bolivia reportedly needs about eight years and $3.474 billion to eradicate the coca business. Paz Zamora said those resources must come from both domestic and international sources.

Foreign Minister Carlos Iturralde, who was also present at the luncheon with journalists, said: "We are not requesting this amount. This is the dimension of the problem that we must confront, and to achieve it we must make a great effort and contribute our own resources."

Paz Zamora said a program to replace coca farms must in its first stage include the establishment of an emergency fund, "to cope with the immediate effects" such a program will bring about, and a reserve of about $60 million for the balance of payments, to cope with the loss of currency.

In a later stage, the government will have to implement a public investment program to improve the infrastructure and to safeguard the ecology in coca producing areas.

Paz Zamora said: "These investments will allow us to establish an economy that is not subsidized from abroad and that is competitive in the international market."

He added: "We do not want measures that will distort the international market—because they would be against the laws of the market—but that will help us make our economy competitive."

President's Entourage for Drug Summit Described

PY1402022090 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] Bolivian Information Minister Manfredo Kempff Suarez today stated that President Jaime Paz Zamora's entourage for his trip to Cartagena, Colombia, is very small.

[Begin recording] [Kempff] The president's entourage is made up of the foreign minister, the minister of the Presidency, the under secretary general for foreign relations, Presidential Adviser Samuel Doria Medina, and the Bolivian ambassadors to the United States and Colombia.

The president will be leaving tomorrow, 14 February, at approximately 1200 on a Lloyd Bolivian Airline flight to Santa Cruz de la Sierra. His return was initially scheduled for the night of 15 February, but he will actually return early on 16 February. He will be back in La Paz at approximately 1400.

[Reporter] Will the president engage in any other activity besides the summit?

[Kempff] The president will arrive in Cartagena tomorrow afternoon. He will probably meet with President Barco, but his agenda does not include any meetings with the other presidents. He will go directly to the summit meeting, which will begin on 15 February. [end recording]

Brazil

Collor Appoints Union Leader as Labor Minister

PY1402024090 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Excerpts] Antonio Rogerio Magri, president of the General Federation of Workers [CGT], has been appointed future labor and social welfare minister.

Upon making the announcement this afternoon at the Foreign Ministry annex, President-elect Fernando Collor de Melo pointed out that for the first time this ministry will be headed by a worker. Collor added that with this appointment he was fulfilling a promise made during his electoral campaign.

[Begin Collor recording] I have always said that I would have a worker as labor minister. I have also said I would allow the working class to participate in the country's leadership. I am certain that Labor and Social Welfare Minister Antonio Rogerio Magri will discharge his duties with the same determination, capacity, and concern for the interests of the working class as he did as union leader. [end recording]

Collor also said that he hoped that the future labor minister will be able to recover all that the working class has lost during this unfair process affecting the great majority of the Brazilian people. [passage omitted]

Antonio Rogerio Magri supported Collor during the electoral campaign and is regarded as an effective union leader.

Magri, who was born in Sao Paulo and who will celebrate his 49th birthday on 26 October, has two children and two grandchildren. He became president of the electricity workers union in 1977 and has been reelected to this post repeatedly, with a minimum of 70 percent support. He has led those very special workers who supply electricity to Sao Paulo State, which consumes about 60 percent of all electricity produced in Brazil.

Magri barely finished high school and practices martial arts, just as President-elect Collor does. Magri has a black belt in judo.

Magri belongs to a modern current of labor that seeks the best for the workers in all negotiations. He practices what is seen as effective union leadership. As his colleagues say, he talks first and if the results are not satisfactory, he then fights. One of his most famous struggles took place in May 1985, when he lead the electricity workers on a strike. However, the essential electricity supply services were not affected.

He left the electricity workers union in October 1989 to go to the CGT.

Collor Promises 10 Percent Monthly Inflation

PY1402112690 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Excerpt] President-elect Fernando Collor de Mello has promised to reduce the inflation rate to 10 percent per month in the first 100 days of his government. Collor returned to Brasilia this morning after a 44,000 km-tour of nine countries.

During the flight from Rio de Janeiro to Brasilia, Collor said he was very worried about the estimated 70 percent inflation rate for February. He said that he did not intend to disclose the economic measures that he will implement as soon as he is sworn in, but asserted that by next June inflation will drop to 10 percent per month. [passage omitted]

President-Elect Returns From European Trip

PY1302132090 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Report by Aecio Amado]

[Text] Brazilian President-elect Fernando Collor de Mello disembarked at Rio de Janeiro's international airport at about 0610 this morning. He arrived on a Varig flight from Spain. The president-elect did not talk to reporters at the airport.

After exiting the Varig airplane Collor de Mello immediately went to a private room to await air-shuttle service to Brasilia. The president-elect and his entire entourage entered the airplane and did not talk to journalists.

At this moment Flight 304 of the Rio de Janeiro-Brasilia air-shuttle service is already on its way to the federal capital, where the president-elect should arrive at about 0830.

Chile

Pinochet Signs Decrees on Transfer of Power

PY1302151890 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Report by Eliana Enriquez from Government House]

[Text] President Augusto Pinochet today signed a supreme decree appointing Belisario Velasco as the new interior undersecretary. He will be installed in his post on 9 March. This was reported by current Interior Undersecretary Gonzalo Garcia, who added that the president also signed decrees accepting the resignation of his entire cabinet as of next 11 March when the transfer ceremony will take place.

[Begin Garcia recording] The president of the Republic today signed a supreme decree appointing Belisario Velasco as interior undersecretary. He will be installed in his post next 9 March. The president also signed decrees accepting the resignation of all the ministers and undersecretaries as of 11 March, with the exception of myself, as I will be replaced next 9 March. [end recording]

Gonzalo Garcia added that these decrees must now be registered by the National Comptroller's Office. These measures, he said, have been adopted through the normal transfer of power process. The interior undersecretary added that the president also signed decrees accepting the resignation of all the national intendants, governors, and 15 mayors, who will be exclusively appointed by the next president.

Journalist Dies in Carabineros Station 10 Feb

PY1402013190 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] The San Antonio Civil Registry Office has issued the death certificate of journalist Juan Bertolo. The certificate states that the journalist died inside the San Antonio police station at 1445 on 10 February.

This contradicts the report issued by the Second Carabineros Zone of Valparaiso that states Bertolo died in the ambulance as he was being taken from the police station to the San Antonio hospital. The police report also states that Bertolo could not be released before 1400 because the legal requirements to do so had not been met.

The death certificate from the San Antonio Civil Registry Office also states that Bertolo died of a heart attack.

Bomb Goes Off at University of Chile Gate

PY1402023490 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] At approximately 1915 today, a bomb went off at the gate of the University of Chile on Bernardo O'Higgins Avenue, between San Diego and Arturo Pratts Streets. According to Carabineros, the bomb had been planted by members of the Communist Party of Chile [PCCh]. The police report states that the extremists left behind PCCh leaflets. The explosion which, according to Carabineros, took place following disruptions of public order by PCCh militants along Ahumada Street, was felt over a radius of several blocks.

Colombia

2 Americans Kidnapped by ELN in Medellin

PA1302212890 Paris AFP in Spanish 2106 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] Bogota, 13 Feb (AFP)—Just 48 hours before the U.S. President visits Colombia to attend the Cartagena presidential drug summit, two U.S. citizens have been kidnapped in the northwestern city of Medellin by guerrillas of the leftist Army of National Liberation (ELN), according to radio reports broadcast in Bogota today.

According to the reports, the ELN's self-styled "Nelson Mandela" urban command has claimed credit for the double kidnapping in telephone calls to various radio stations in Medellin.

However, the Medellin metropolitan police, who were contacted by AFP by telephone from Bogota, said they knew nothing of the kidnapping.

According to the radio reports, the subversives explained that the two Americans, identified as David Leslie Kent, director of the Columbus School, and James Arthur Donnelly, an auto parts retailer, have been taken hostage in "reprisal for President George Bush's upcoming visit to Cartagena."

In two days the U.S. President will meet at the Colombian Caribbean beach resort of Cartagena with his counterparts from Bolivia, Peru, and Colombia to find a strategy for combatting international drug trafficking.

More on Kidnappings

PA1302221890 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2132 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] Bogota, 13 Feb (EFE)—Two U.S. citizens were kidnapped in Medellin today by alleged guerrillas of the pro-Castro Camilist Unity of the National Liberation Army [UCELN], Radio Cadena Nacional [RCN] reported today.

Medellin is Colombia's second largest city and headquarters of the cartel that produces and markets most of the world's cocaine.

According to RCN, the names of those kidnapped are Leslie Kent, professor of Columbus School in Medellin, and James Arthur Donnelly, who works for a corporation that manufactures hydraulic couplings.

The radio network said that the guerrillas have announced they would release the abducted men and give them messages to carry back which pertain to the antidrug summit and U.S. President George Bush's visit. Bush is scheduled to arrive in Barranquilla on 15 February to attend the Cartagena de Indias meeting, scheduled for the same day.

The alleged UCELN front, that claimed responsibility for the kidnapping is the self-styled Nelson Mandela Front, unheard of up to now.

The U.S. Embassy in Bogota told EFE that it could not confirm the report. Police sources in Bogota have also been unable to confirm it.

No Clues

PA1302215590 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 2136 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] The state's secret services still have no clues regarding the two U.S. citizens who were kidnapped in the past few hours by guerrillas of the ELN [Army of National Liberation] during operations in Medellin.

The victims were identified as David Lecky, director of the Columbus School, and James Arthur Donnelly. Both were kidnapped by the so-called Nelson Mandela cell of the ELN 48 hours before the presidential drug summit in Cartagena.

[Madrid EFE in Spanish at 2132 GMT on 13 December reports that Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional lists the kidnap victims as "Leslie Kent, professor of the Columbus School in Medellin, and James Arthur Donnelly..."]

One Victim Released

PA1302234790 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 2318 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] Medellin—One of the two U.S. citizens who was kidnapped in the past few hours in the capital of Antioquia has been released by the ELN [Army of National Liberation] guerrillas. According to a report from the authorities, James Arthur Donnelly was released unharmed by the subversives at an unidentified site in Medellin. Donnelly was told by the rebels that he had been kidnapped to protest the upcoming visit to Cartagena by President Bush.

The U.S. citizen told the authorities that he had not been mistreated.

The members of the new Nelson Mandela urban command of the ELN's Camilist Union have announced that in the next few hours, they will also release David Leslie Kent, the other victim, with a message regarding their position on the drug summit which is scheduled to begin in Cartagena on 15 February.

Foreign Minister on U.S. Role at Drug Summit

PA1302183690 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1758 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] Cartagena (Colombia), 13 Feb (DPA)—Colombian Foreign Minister Julio Londono Paredes said today in Cartagena that the Andean countries "do not need gifts, but a just commercial treatment from the United States," and he is convinced that "President Bush will come to the drug summit to offer us the help we need."

Speaking with reporters, the foreign minister also emphasized that "the struggle against narcotics trafficking will not be successful if the White House insists on discriminating against the legal exports of the Latin American countries."

Londono Paredes is in Cartagena putting the final touches on the preparations for Bush's meeting with his Andean counterparts Jaime Paz Zamora (Bolivia), Virgilio Barco Vargas (Colombia), and Alan Garcia Perez (Peru), who will discuss how to fight the production, trafficking, and consumption of drugs.

"Our countries should not assume by themselves the struggle against this scourge," the Colombian foreign minister said after recalling that "cocaine is still being sold on the streets of New York as if it were candy or smuggled watches."

Londono Paredes' ideas coincide with those of U.S. Democratic Senator Salomon Ortiz, who told Radio Caracol that "he who produces (drugs) is as guilty as he who consumes them." [sentence as received]

Meanwhile, the Colombian civilian and military authorities said that Cartagena is "ready" to receive the four presidents, while at the same time patrols have been intensified in the streets and strategic places to prevent any violent action.

According to Civil Aeronautics, commercial flights will be suspended for three days at the Rafael Nunez Airport of Cartagena and at the Ernesto Cortizo Airport of Barranquilla, where the heads of state will arrive.

"The security of the presidents and newsmen is fully guaranteed," the military chief of the region said yesterday after meeting with U.S. Ambassador to Bogota Thomas MacNamara to coordinate the latest preparations for the meeting.

The intense police preparations included an 11 February raid on a home located in a suburb close to Cartagena where Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha (the number two man

of the Medellin mafia cartel) was hiding one day before he was killed by authorities on 15 December.

Bombs on 13 Feb in Bogota Protest Bush Visit

PA1402131390 Paris AFP in Spanish 0740 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] Bogota, 13 Feb (AFP)—The police have reported that several dynamite attacks to protest President George Bush's imminent visit caused heavy damage but no casualties on 13 February.

Bombs hurled by unidentified individuals partially destroyed three Mormon churches in Bogota.

Mormon Bishop Alberto Cadena told the press that he recently received anonymous threats over the telephone warning him that bombs would be placed in his churches because they represented U.S. interests and were a means to protest the presence of Bush at the drug summit in Cartagena on 15 February.

Meanwhile, the so-called Nelson Mandela group of the Army of National Liberation (ELN) also used bombs to destroy a parking lot for government offices in Medellin, burning one car and damaging a dozen more.

The attackers, who condemned the U.S. President's visit, fled in a car they stole at the parking lot.

This group had a few hours earlier kidnapped for that same reason two U.S. citizens living in Medellin, 40-year-old professor David Leslie Kent and 62-year-old industrialist James Arthur Donnelly. Donnelly was released shortly afterward with a message protesting Bush's visit.

Policemen, Students Hurt in Anti-Bush Protests

PA1402013890 Paris AFP in Spanish 0056 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] Bogota, 13 Feb (AFP)—Six policemen and an undetermined number of students, some of whom were arrested, were injured today at the university campus in western Bogota during protests against U.S. President George Bush's visit to Colombia.

For some four hours, according to witnesses, approximately 100 hooded youths clashed with public forces using stones, Molotov cocktails, and small explosives made with coins. Some gunfire was aimed at armored police vehicles.

A part of the fence and wall around the university, Colombia's largest state university, were destroyed in the disturbances. The disturbance led to a severe traffic jam on two busy avenues that intersect in the area.

As evening fell, the situation had been normalized in the sector which is under heavy police control. The demonstrators threw furniture from the university at the policemen and chanted slogans against the Bush visit. Bush is to participate in a drug summit at Cartagena with his counterparts from Colombia, Peru, and Bolivia.

Labor Federations Call Protests for 14 Feb

PA1302195190 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Report by Liliana Vigoya from Bogota]

[Text] The labor federations are preparing protests for tomorrow. Labor Minister Maria Teresa Forero has said that the mayoral offices authorized the protests as long as the law is respected and public order is not disrupted.

Meanwhile, the 3,600 employees of Bogota's telephone company decreed themselves in permanent assembly until management begins to discuss their demands with the union. Liliana Vigoya has filed this report:

[Begin recording] [Vigoya] A total of 500,000 workers, called by the four labor federations, will protest the government's economic measures, especially those pertaining to wages and public services. Government Minister Carlos Lemos Simmonds has asked the demonstrators to be prudent and to show responsibility.

[Lemos] I am convinced that the Colombian workers who organized the protests will act within the legal framework; that they will demonstrate without disturbing the peace. I am confident that once such demonstrations are over, they will calmly and peacefully return to their homes to show the world, which will be monitoring Colombia's behavior, that our country knows how to act properly when the situation warrants, despite so much violence.

[United Workers Federation, CUT, Secretary Angelino Garzon] We ask the government minister, defense minister, and the national government to please respect our protest because there can be no talk about democracy if the government violates the workers' right to mobilize and protest. We ask security forces to respect the various mobilizations we will carry out tomorrow.

[Vigoya] Also in the labor sector, the 4,000 telephone company workers declared themseves in permanent assembly in view of the company's refusal to negotiate three of the main points presented on 26 January. The demands concern the democratization of the telephone company, the struggle against influence peddling, adoption of new technology, and the foreign debt. [end recording]

Stoppages Worsen Labor Situation

PA1402132890 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] Bogota—The country's labor situation has worsened in the past few hours. More than 20,000 employees from five banks announced a general strike, professors of five departments will continue their staggered work

stoppages, and about 4,000 employees of Bogota's telephone company declared a permanent assembly.

Spokesmen for Fenansibancol [National Federation of Bank Workers' Unions of Colombia] said they will continue staggered stoppages at Banco Central Hipotecario, Banco Industrial Colombiano, Banco de Credito y Comercio, Banco Popular, and Banco Cafetero as a result of the stagnation of negotiations between employees and managers of those credit organizations.

Fecode [Colombian Federation of Educators] officials pointed out that teachers in the Departments of La Guajira, Cesar, Cordoba, Sucre, and Valle del Cauca will continue staggered stoppages until the government pays wages and bonuses in arrears.

Also, 4,000 workers and technicians of Bogota's telephone company declared a permanent information assembly to apply pressure toward the signing of a new collective-bargaining agreement by paralyzing the company's administrative and operational areas.

For his part, National Education Minister Manuel Francisco Becerra announced drastic sanctions against teachers who paralyze academic activity. Meanwhile, Labor Minister Maria Teresa Forero de Saade said that the government might declare the bank stoppage illegal.

Barranquilla Airport Under Strict Security

PA1402014990 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0007 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Report by Jorge Koura in Medellin]

[Text] The Barranquilla airport, where President Bush is scheduled to arrive and walk on Colombian soil for the first time, is being subjected to heavy restrictions.

This is the site where President Bush will hold a news conference with Colombian, Bolivian, and U.S. journalists. Approximately 1,300 Army and police troops will protect President Bush during his visit to Barranquilla. According to the organizers, he will be there about 45 minutes. He will be there 15 minutes in the morning after he arrives and before he boards the helicopter gunship that will take him to Cartagena. He will be thgere 30 minutes in the afternoon when he will hold a news conference.

[Begin unidentified Barranquilla police officer recording] The police are responsible for the custody and protection of the International Room and all the internal areas of the airport. An Army brigade commando group and various battalions under its command will be in charge of protecting the external area. [end recording]

For security reasons, the airport terminal will be closed for five hours on 15 February: three hours in the morning, between 0700 and 1000; and two hours in the afternoon, between 1530 and 1730.

U.S. journalists have turned the International Room into their new residence. Sophisticated equipment, antennas, cables, cameras, and many other things can be seen in the room which has been specially equipped to broadcast Bush's news conference in Barranquilla via satellite.

Traffickers To Turn Over Drug Laboratory

PA1402005290 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 2359 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] Attention. "Twenty-Four Hours" [name of newscast] has learned that drug traffickers are prepared to drop a bombshell on either 14 February, or 15 February when U.S. President George Bush visits Colombia. The bombshell, contrary to what U.S. reporters had initially believed, will not be an attack on the U.S. President, but instead will involve turning over a large cocaine laboratory to a group of reporters who were invited to visit an unidentified place in the jungles of Antioquia. The reporters were instructed to bring a change of clothes and mosquito repellent. The discovery of the laboratory will be timed to coincide with the media attention that Colombia will be receiving from around the world.

This newscast has also learned that the government is preparing a document to respond to the drug traffickers. The document will outline the government's position regarding the sincerity of the drug traffickers' action.

Hand Over 3 'Biggest' Labs

PA1402141190 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1313 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] Bogota, 14 Feb (EFE)—The drug traffickers' group known as the Medellin Cartel today announced in a communique that it has turned over to Colombian authorities its three "biggest laboratories," which have produced 20 tons of cocaine a month since 1984.

The communique added that the laboratories, known as "Cartagena," "Santa Marta," and "La Dorada," are located in remote locations of Choco and Uraba, in northwestern Colombia.

The turning over of the laboratories comes on the eve of the drug summit of the presidents of Colombia, Peru, Bolivia, and the United States to be held on 15 February in Cartagena, on Colombia's Atlantic coast.

A journalist of the Cadena Radial Colombia (Caracol) station in Medellin, who was taken along with other journalists to the site as a witness to the turning over of the laboratories, said the drug laboratories "are the biggest in the world" and that they even have installations to "produce their own chemicals."

The three laboratories are very far from each other, the journalist said, adding that to reach them one has to cross swamps and practically impenetrable jungles in areas over which it is very unlikely that authorities could have control.

The journalist said the houses next to the laboratories are not luxurious but do have such comforts as refrigerators, washing machines, televisions, and even air conditioners, and they can house dozens of workers.

Since the Extraditables announced in mid-January that they were willing to dismantle the cocaine business, they have released several kidnap victims, turned over to authorities a bus filled with a ton of dynamite, and returned a helicopter stolen last year.

The communique of the Extraditables, which was sent to several news media, stated that the laboratories were turned over to show their willingness to establish peace and to dismantle the cocaine business.

According to the communique, 20 journalists witnessed the turning over of the laboratories.

The Extraditables added that this was a demonstration of their willingness to hold a dialogue and achieve peace, as they stated in January.

The drug traffickers also said that they have begun negotiations with rightist paramilitary groups and that those groups would also be willing to demobilize and turn over their weapons if the government holds a dialogue with them and provides them some guarantees.

Liberal Senator Proposes Drug Legalization

PA1402020390 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0021 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] Bogota, 13 Feb (DPA)—Colombian Senator Ernesto Samper Pizano said today in Bogota that if industrialized countries cannot reduce drug consumption, Colombia should insist that it be legalized internationally.

The parliamentarian, member of the ruling Liberal Party, sent President Virgilio Barco Vargas a letter in which he requests that Barco propose the adoption of various strategies to George Bush. The strategies range from logistical support to intelligence organizations in producer countries, the elimination of extradition treaties, and "better treatment of our exports."

"If this is not possible and if consumption cannot be eliminated, then we need to insist that drugs be legalized," said Samper Pizano. Samper Pizano is one of six presidential candidates. The Liberal senator asked the Colombian president to make the proposal at the drug summit on 15 February in which presidents Bush, Barco Vargas, Bolivia's Jaime Paz Zamora, and Peru's Alan Garcia will participate.

Presidential Hopeful Criticizes Bush Visit

PA1302143790 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1739 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] The following is a summary of the campaign activities of the various candidate hopefuls during the past weekend.

Presidential candidate hopeful Cesar Gaviria Trujillo toured the Atlantic coastal area, San Andres, and Providencia this weekend, asking the Colombians to go to the polls and thus help fulfill the political ideals of the late Luis Carlos Galan Sarmiento. Gaviria Trujillo rejected the victories forecast by opinion polls and insisted his victory will be a fact after the voting takes place.

Candidate hopeful Gabriel Melo Guevara said that the country needs a new majority to save it. He toured Guamal and Meta where he talked with local political leaders and businessmen. He said that at present those who do not behave well receive everything, while honest people are being maltreated.

Meanwhile, another presidential hopeful, Hernando Duran Dussan, promised to carry out numerous public works throughout the country. He advised he is not making false campaign promises or hunting for votes and said he is confident he will win the 27 May elections. Duran Dussan promised he would give more importance to the small municipalities and promote coffee policies.

In Cartagena, presidential candidate hopeful Alberto Santofimio Botero criticized President Bush's visit. He charged that the U.S. President is coming here to gain popularity in his country. Cartagena, Santofimio said, will be the scene of a deplorable lack of respect for Colombian pride and values.

Social Conservative Candidate Against Extradition

PA1302205790 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo, presidential candidate for the Social Conservative Party, has made a statement on drug trafficking in a letter he sent to President Bush telling him frankly that if he wins the presidency he will not extradite Colombians to the United Sates. He also makes some proposals that he regards as essential in the antidrug war.

In his letter to the U.S. President, Lloreda Caicedo said that if he is elected he will not allow drug traffickers to be tried outside of Colombia.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Will this get you many votes, or will it hurt you?

[Lloreda] This is my position. I have the advantage that everyone knows who I am and what my position is. People know that I have no links to drug traffickers.

[Reporter] If you are elected, will you extradite anyone?

[Lloreda] I am against extradition. I believe that it would be jusitified only if there were no justice in Colombia. I hope that there will be justice in Colombia, therefore, I am against extradition. [end recording]

Lloreda says that Colombian military justice should be responsible for trying the drug traffickers, who in one

year have caused more than $300 million in losses in 873 bombing attacks. They have also killed 5,750 people.

LLoreda Caicedo also asks that the Bush government cooperate in giving preferential treatment to Colombian products instead of sending Colombia outdated military equipment.

Notables Respond to FARC Mediation Request

PA1402044890 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0000 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] Two weeks ago the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia [FARC] sent a letter to national leaders, known as the Notables, offering to negotiate a cease-fire during the March and May elections and asking them to mediate in the negotiations.

Today former presidents Carlos Lleras, Alfonso Lopez, Misael Pastrana, Belisario Betancur, and Cardinal Mario Rebollo and Fabio Echeverri [National Industrialists Association President] questioned the guerrillas' position by issuing a statement asking the rebels what had happened to the cease-fires the guerrillas said they would honor during past administrations, and asking why the people had not been informed when the guerrillas broke the cease-fires.

The former leaders state in their declaration that they cannot participate in the peace effort until these questions are answered. The curt, tersely worded statement says that the FARC has continued to practice various forms of extortion against people in the regions in which it operates and that for this reason it defies reason for the country's most influential leaders to ask the Armed Forces to stop carrying out their duty to defend the lives, honor, and property of Colombians.

The Notables state, in a few words, that they are not prepared to suggest to the Army that it not perform its mission, especially since the country was informed only a few days ago of a new FARC plan to seize power in 1992.

The Notables' declaration means that the peace talks that had been taking place until recently, thanks to their mediation, have been broken, perhaps definitively.

Paraguay

Newspaper Comments on Quayle's Upcoming Visit

PY1202195690 Asuncion PATRIA in Spanish 11 Feb 90 p 7

[Text] As an indication of the positive nature of our country's good international image, there will be some particularly important events in Paraguay's foreign policy in February, March, and April 1990. On 19-20 February Foreign Minister Luis Maria Argana will make his first trip to Europe, beginning with an official visit to Spain and then to other important European capitals.

A nearly unprecedented event will take place in March 1990. U.S. Vice-President Dan Quayle will visit our country after 15 March. The preparations for this visit have virtually begun.

In this regard, it is appropriate to note that this U.S. vice-presidential visit was expressly requested by U.S. President George Bush.

Bush wants to erase the bad image, or the bad impression, the recent U.S. military "invasion" of the Republic of Panama, as a result of the "Noriega case," created in virtually all the Latin American nations.

In other words: the U.S. Government wants to return friendship, goodwill, and understanding to the governments of the Latin American countries and [show] that the Yankee "invasion" of Panama, no matter its unfavorable impact in Latin America, cannot harm forever U.S. relations with the Southern Hemisphere.

This is the meaning of the U.S. vice-president's special visit to Paraguay.

Whatever the origin of this trip of presidential connotation, the fact that Asuncion, Paraguay, has been expressly selected by the White House is a clear indication of the noticeable prestige that democratic Paraguay has managed to achieve in the higher levels of U.S. power.

This means that the visit of the U.S. vice-president and president of the Senate, will gain an importance that cannot escape notice. It must be noted that in the United States, the foremost free world power, real power is shared by the President and Congress.

The first trip to Asuncion by the U.S. vice-president was preceded last week by a significant gesture by the U.S. Government: the valuable contribution of humanitarian assistance to those Paraguayans living on river banks who are affected by the Parana River floods.

That humanitarian cargo, which actually represents a renewed symbol of Paraguay's traditional friendship with the United States of America, was transported to Silvio Pettirossi International Airport in Asuncion by a giant "Galaxy" C5B, the world's second largest military cargo plane in operation today.

"It is a huge airplane with a valuable humanitarian cargo" for those Paraguayans who are experiencing a difficult moment, suffering the rigors of nature, as U.S. Ambassador Timothy Towell would say.

Concerning Ambassador Towell, there is an anecdote among diplomatic circles that President Bush reportedly told President Rodriguez in New York last year that Ambassador Towell is an outstanding diplomat described as very "pro-Paraguayan" ["paraguayista"] by the [U.S.] State Department and the White House.

In March, therefore, Paraguayan-U.S. relations will experience a dynamic and feverish activity with such an important trip as the one by the U.S. vice-president.

This will remind Paraguayans who are well versed in national history of the memorable attitude of former U.S. President Rutherford B. Hayes. In the last century he ruled in favor of our country in the serious dispute with the Argentine Republic, a dispute in which no less than almost one-fourth of the northern Paraguayan territory, the Chaco, was at stake.

In homage, the neighboring town of Villa Hayes in the Chaco region bears the name of that unforgettable friend of Paraguay, as former President Hayes undoubtedly was.

Additionally, there will be an impressive number of foreign policy commitments in March. President Rodriguez will travel to Uruguay, Chile, and Brazil to attend the presidential inaugurations in those three fraternal countries.

In late April, we will have in Asuncion the 19th conference of the foreign ministers of the five River Plate Basin countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay.

Before this important meeting in March [as published], we will have a famous visitor. It will be the first trip to Paraguay by Spanish Foreign Minister Dr. Francisco Fernandez Ordonez; a new step in the revived good relations between our fatherland and the immortal Spain of our forebears.

Uruguayan Criticizes U.S. Pressure on Nicaragua

PY1402003390 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 10 Feb 90 p 7

[Text] Dr. Orlando Rojas, a delegate of the Uruguayan Committee of Solidarity with Nicaragua, has visited our country to explain the electoral process in that Central American country. Dr. Rojas reported that because 25 February, election day in that country, is approaching, the Uruguayan Committee of Solidarity with Nicaragua has carried out a thorough study of the electoral process in which serious pressure by the United States and pro-Somoza elements is noticeable. This pressure is aimed at disturbing the free development of an election that wishes to be autonomous.

The leader of the Uruguayan Committee of Solidarity with Nicaragua said that, several years after the overthrow of the Somoza dictatorship, the United States established an economic blockade. Former Somozist guards, openly financed by the power of the North, laid a military siege and carried out relentless criminal raids and sabotage actions against production and service centers, to the point of placing mines in Nicaraguan harbors, thus violating basic international laws. In conclusion, Dr. Rojas said that nothing has been certain in the Central American country recently because they, the Sandinistas, must be alert to potential interventionist intentions despite the presence of political observers.

IMF Talks End Without 'Concrete Agreement'

PY1302121190 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 11 Feb 90 Economic Supplement p 1

[Text] The most noteworthy event of the week is the fact that the government has concluded negotiations with the IMF without reaching a concrete agreement. The government has decided, however, to implement an economic program based on the IMF's recommendations in the hope of stabilizing the country's economy during the course of the year.

The truth is that the government's economic policy has met almost all of the IMF requirements. The controversy with the IMF negotiators was apparently mainly over their demand to sign an agreement or letter of intent for a firm commitment—given in figures—to maintain an overall fiscal balance that would be reported in quarterly reports to the IMF and would reflect an economic situation that followed previously determined goals.

The finance minister refused to tie his policy to difficult-to-meet, preestablished guidelines because the IMF was demanding that the public accounts include autonomous enterprises as part of the public sector. The Finance Ministry is reportedly only able to account for the central government's finances. The financial situation of the public enterprises is still a mystery because the decision to privatize them is pending and the government does not want to order a large increase in utility rates that would affect the peoples' purchasing power.

As the industry and commerce minister has already stated, the government has been implementing the necessary adjustment measures for a market economy, eliminating exchange subsidies, and adopting a more realistic financial policy. Public service tariffs have been adjusted to more realistic levels but some adjustments are still pending, especially regarding the price of fuel.

For the time being the government will not sign a standard letter of intent with the IMF but will probably decide to implement an economic program with the IMF's tacit approval.

It is not certain whether the government will resort to the Paris Club for an all-encompassing negotiation with creditor governments. The government also has the alternative of carrying out bilateral negotiations with each creditor, although negotiations with the Paris Club are less costly, pose fewer obstacles, and represent a formal framework of reference for the individual agreements with the creditors.

Because the signing of an agreement with the IMF is one of the requirements for negotiations with the Paris Club, it still remains to be seen whether the creditors, in their individual negotiations with the Paraguayan Government, will be satisfied in knowing that the country is implementing an economic program approved by the IMF but not formally endorsed through a signed agreement.

The guidelines for the public sector's finances have been set, however, because the government intends to curb inflation and to realize a surplus in its balance of payments. Not even the strict IMF technicians have been given figures guaranteeing the entire public sector's financial balance.

Agreement on 'General Principles'

PY1302123990 Asuncion RPC Television Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] Finance Minister Enzo Debernardi announced today that the government has reached an agreement with the IMF:

[Begin recording] [Debernardi] The agreement is to adopt the general principles that we discussed with the IMF. Regarding the details, we have freedom of action until midyear when we will meet again to reach a new agreement.

[Reporter] What are the general principles?

[Debernardi] The general principles, as I have already noted, pertain to the inflation rate, Central Bank reserves, the central administration's deficit, and the country's growth rate, which is really the most important. We have agreed on these principles. [end recording]

Debernardi then talked about the details of the agreement reached with the IMF:

[Begin recording] [Debernardi] The agreement with the IMF includes a strict accounting every three months, which is very difficult to achieve under the general conditions in the administration of our country. The control demands very close coordination not only within the central administration—which we believe we can achieve—but also of all the state enterprises as a whole. To do that we will have to be better prepared.

[Reporter] Are there deficiencies in the three-month control mechanisms?

[Debernardi] There are really no deficiencies. The problem is that it is not organized to carry out controls in that manner.

[Reporter] What about the tax program?

[Debernardi] The tax program to be submitted to the government will be ready by April. [end recording]

Several Former Stroessner Officers Released

PY1302144890 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 9 Feb 90 p 8

[Text] The Armed Forces command has lifted in some units the house arrest and detention conditions for several officers who held high positions under the previous military regime. They are Generals German Martinez, Gerardo Alberto Johansen, Francisco Ruiz Diaz, Benito Guanes Serrano, Cesar Machuca Vargas, Alejandro Fretes Davalos and Soto Valleau and other officers. Reliable sources also reported that several colonels and lower-ranking officers were released in accordance with Article 847 of the military personnel regulations, which are an extension of Law 916 on military life and discipline in our country. The sources added that all the officers who were held under arrest after the February military coup that overthrew General Stroessner have already been retired. Military sources added that the house arrest of Generals Hugo Dejesus Araujo and Roberto Knofelmacher, who were tried for embezzlement of public funds and released on a court order, will also be lifted. This issue was discussed during the weekly meeting of the Armed Forces command.

Rodriguez Comments

PY1302173590 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 10 Feb 90 p 3

[Text] Upon officially announcing the release of military commanders who were placed under house arrest or banished after the February 1989 coup, President Andres Rodriguez yesterday said that the generals who cooperated with former President Alfredo Stroessner's regime will not face military trials unless there are concrete charges or hard evidence.

Some of the 34 generals who cooperated with Stroessner's regime were retired and banished to barracks or military units and others were placed under house arrest as a result of the events on 2-3 February. The exact places to which they were sent have never been officially reported.

When asked about this issue, President Rodriguez said it was "a normal situation." He added that "those generals—he did not reveal their names—went into retirement with all the privileges provided by law." [quotation marks as published]

Asked about those under house arrest, Rodriguez said: "They have been under house arrest or exiled for one year in keeping with the law. As of today they are completely free with all the rights granted by the National Constitution and the law."

Asked whether some of them will face military trials, Rodriguez said: "No... But if charges are made, to my knowledge they can be brought to trial." Rodriguez reiterated that the generals were completely free "as of the moment I signed the decree."

Asked about the date on which he signed the decree, Rodriguez said: "I signed it on 8 February." The decree has not been released.

In reply to a question on the issue, Defense Minister Angel Souto Hernandez, retired, said: "I know nothing about that." Asked whether the decree was released by his ministry, Souto reiterated: "I know nothing about it. There is no decree." The division generals who retired in

May 1989 are: Francisco Alcibiades Britez Borges, Alejandro Fretes Davalos, Gaspar German Martinez, Gerardo Alberto Johansen Roux, Gustavo Prieto Bustos, Cesar Machuca Vargas, Eduardo Sanchez, Guillermo Federico Clebsch, Luis Alberto Gonzalez Ravetti, Enrique Duarte Alder, and Raul Eleuterio Calvet. Eighteen brigadier generals, two quartermaster generals, one medical service general, one vice admiral, and one rear admiral were also retired.

Rodriguez' First Year in Office Analyzed

PY1302220190 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 2 Feb 90 p 7

[Article by Jose Nicolas Morinigo]

[Text] One year after the ousting of General Stroessner, it is necessary to restore institutions and to guarantee the massive participation of the people in the construction of a society which should uphold all human values.

The autocratic 34-year-old regime built by Stroessner and others, a regime which worked as a dispenser of favors, collapsed on the night of 2 February 1989. The uncertainty that followed the coup has faded; the fear that the fall of Stroessner would be followed by anarchy erased. On the contrary, Paraguayan society has intensified its political life. This situation, however, has revealed the fragility of institutions. Even though the possibilities for engaging in political activities have been substantially increased, the traditional institutions of democracy, the political parties and congress, have failed to assume a decisive guiding role. Consequently, the image of the president has grown noticeably and, through his initiative, he has become the center of the political system.

"Rodriguezism" was not born out of any specific plan. Rather, it is the result of the inefficiency of party leaderships. This situation, in a society in which paternalism still prevails, can turn into a serious obstacle to the construction of a new democratic order.

Although it is difficult to summarize the functioning of the new political regime, we believe that it has two main features. First, the tension between conservative and democratic social sectors, and second, the dramatic lack of a previous institutional life which could be the backbone of the transition process.

To prove our thesis, we will briefly analyze the action of four key social sectors: the Armed Forces, the political parties, businessmen, and the church.

Beyond all doubt, the pact between the Armed Forces and the Colorado Party, a major feature of Stroessnerism, has become gradually weaker. The thesis that turned the Colorado Party into the only valid spokesman for the Armed Forces, through a symbiotic strategy of uniforms and red handkerchiefs, is beginning to fade. The military is now interested in professionalism, a factor in modern society that plays a key role in the democratic transition.

The Armed Forces' political opening toward political parties has promoted democratization. This attitude, however, has been restricted by the Armed Forces' conservative perception of social movements. The demands of peasants, workers, or people's sectors are, in the opinion of the Armed Forces, signs of anarchy and political destabilization. This situation explains the use of force as a deterrent. The Armed Forces do not have a strategy for reasonably answering social demands.

The rallying power of the traditional parties constitutes a socioeconomic phenomenon that brooks no argument. In Paraguayan society at present, the main political actors can be found in the Colorado Party and the Authentic Radical Liberal Party.

In party organizations, the tension between modern social participation and the old practice of assuring control of the party apparatus through personal relations, which invigorates the traditional ties of the trilogy of the party director, the local caudillo, and the local masses, reflects the contradiction between the new and the old.

Rather than setting a new style of leadership, party leaders have become very jealous of the power they control, thus losing the initiative for change. Consequently, internal conflicts emerge with full force, precluding parties' assuming the responsibility for programs and plans to deal with the nation's problems. It should be noted that it is not merely a technical task, but also a political one, to raise a new battle cry capable of mobilizing party memberships to make the party's objectives viable.

Party leaderships are subject to a conservative influence making them unable to develop a new participative political doctrine. The situation in the new parties is the same. They engage in critical discourse devoid of creativity, based on opposition for opposition's sake, confronting reality with an abstract model, and speaking on behalf of some social activists that are generally nonexistent in their own organizations.

The church played a fundamental role in bringing about the collapse of the Stroessner regime—even assumed an active participation. At this time, however, it is just a cautious observer, restraining its mobilizing force for social change. The tension between its commitment to society and the transformation thereof, and its retrenchment into strictly religious tasks, again emerges.

With the more active presence of social activists who could not emerge and develop before, the Church seems to be moving away from direct efforts at social change.

In the past 12 months, businessmen have developed a new identity, with clear repercussions in the political arena. I would dare say they have rediscovered the value of power exerted directly through the political system. The submission to the previous regime has been transformed into a more horizontal, nearly equal alliance with the new government.

Businessmen, with exceptions, on one hand want a rapid process of economic liberalization while on the other hand are loath to allow forms of association that are typical of a pluralistic society. Consequently, the duality of conduct that reflects the tension between the old and the new can be seen between actions for change and actions to preserve traditional forms of organization.

The lack of institutional experience is another characteristic of the process set in motion on 2 February 1989. The Stroessner regime plowed Paraguayan political society into a desert because the democratic institutions were used perversely. Thus it is now necessary to restore the value of institutions. This task should be preceded by the broadest possible democratic participation in the context of the enhanced value of persons as citizens who are capable of actively participating in the construction of their own society.

Finance Ministry Dismissals, Reorganization

PY1002150090 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 9 Feb 90 p 13

[Excerpt] Finance Minister Enzo Debernardi has confirmed that all high-ranking Finance Ministry officials have tendered him their resignations.

It has been rumored for some time that important changes would occur at the highest levels of the Finance Ministry. Resignation rumors referred especially to Deputy Secretary Oscar Jacinto Obelar and Income Tax Director General Maximo Vasquez Ballena because the other directors had already been dismissed.

The finance minister said the high-ranking officials "very nobly" tendered their resignations to facilitate the Finance Ministry reorganization. [passage omitted]

Under Secretary of Mines, Energy Appointed

PY1302155590 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 10 Feb p 13

[Summary] Public Works and Communications Minister Porfirio Pereira Ruiz Diaz has appointed Juan H. Palmieri as the new under secretary of mines and energy.

PLRA Faction Established; Officials Named

PY1302154190 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 12 Feb 90 p 7

[Excerpts] The "Integration and Democratic Opening" ["Integracion y Apertura Democratica"] faction of the Authentic Radical Liberal Party (PLRA) held a plenary meeting yesterday morning and decided to establish itself as an internal movement. [passage omitted]

A coordinating board was later formed and an organizational chart of the movement was established. The coordinating board is composed of the following 12 full members: Carlos Alberto Gonzalez, Noyimi Yore, Luis Delorne, Emigdio Antonelli, Ursino Barrios, Ramiro Barboza, Elida Lizza, Herminio Medina, Margarita Diaz de Vivar, Rafael Carrera, Martin Lara Castro, and Daniel Burst. The movement will hold its first meeting today at 2000 in its offices at 1248 25 de Mayo Street. The appointment of Dr Gonzalez as the movement's first coordinator will be made official during this meeting.

Peru

Ex-President Belaunde Supports Vargas Llosa

PY1402011790 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0159 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] Lima, 12 Feb (EFE) In statements published today by OIGA, a Peruvian weekly, Fernando Belaunde, former Peruvian president, said Peruvians will have to decide whether to vote for writer Mario Vargas Llosa or for "chaos" in the 8 April presidential elections.

Belaunde is the top leader of the center-rightist Popular Action (AP) party. The AP, the Popular Christian Party (PPC), the Libertad Movement, and the Solidarity and Democracy (SODE) Movement—which make up the Democratic Front (FREDEMO)—have nominated Vargas Llosa as their presidential candidate.

Belaunde told OIGA that he trusts Vargas Llosa will win the first round of the elections, and said: "I will insist the Peruvian people contribute with unequivocal results in the first round."

Belaunde said: "Peruvians will have to choose between Vargas Llosa or chaos, considering that the United Left could not win the presidential elections in 1985, [words indistinct] will not win, and the ruling APRA [American Popular Revolutionary Alliance], a democratic leftist party, is currently a victim of the pendulum that swung in its favor in 1985."

Belaunde, however, agreed that Vargas Llosa should maintain a cordial attitude toward the left, the United Left, and the Socialist Left if he wins the elections. This does not necessarily mean these sectors will participate in the government, but they could possibly hold congressional posts." [quotation marks as received]

He charged Vargas Llosa's political [word indistinct] with having conducted the electoral campaign "in a very condemnable personal manner, and I think the situation should calm down."

Concerning the release of the [word indistinct] of Vargas Llosa's income, which was used to charge him with tax evasion, Belaunde said: "The government is responsible for the political use of a document that is regarded as classified by the tax laws."

According to public opinion polls, Vargas Llosa will win the 8 April presidential and congressional elections.

OIGA reported that, according to the polls, Vargas Llosa will win 61.6 percent of the votes in the first electoral round, the Socialist Left will win 13 percent, the United

Left 6.1 percent, and APRA 5.1 percent. APRA polled 1.7 percent less votes than in January.

According to the weekly SI, which was published today, Vargas Llosa might win 53 percent of the votes, the Socialist Left 15 percent, the United Left eight percent and APRA eight percent.

Ten Die in MRTA Attack; Army Pursues Column

PY1302142390 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1520 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] Lima, 10 Feb (EFE)—At least five police officers and five guerrillas died when a 200-member column of the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) attacked the police post in the village of Picota, in Peru's northern jungle area. The local radio station "Radioprogramas del Peru" reported that the confrontation occurred last night and lasted until the early hours of this morning. An official report has not yet been released.

At this time the members of the MRTA column are being pursued by approximately 200 members of the Army in the Huallaga River Valley area in the jungle department of San Martin, where the terrorist MRTA and Shining Path groups and drug traffickers carry out their actions.

The terrorists not only attacked the police post at Picota, 60 km from Tarapoto, one of the department's most important cities, but they also used explosives to cause serious damage to the offices of the Agrarian Bank and Bank of the Nation.

The terrorists also attacked state enterprise offices. At the time of the attack there were 20 members of the National Police on duty at the Picota post. The news of the attack caused furor in the department and police and Army troops were sent to Picota.

Uruguay

New Air Force and Navy Commanders Designated

PY1302234390 Montevideo EL DIA in Spanish 8 Feb 90 p 7

[Excerpt] Brigadier General Carlos P. Pache Gelabert, 57, and recently promoted Rear Admiral James Coates Rovira, 54, will be the new Air Force and Navy commanders, respectively. EL DIA has received confirmation that President-elect Luis Alberto Lacalle will officially appoint them after his inauguration on 1 March. [passage omitted]

Guyana

Venezuelan Foreign Minister Comments on Panama

FL1302170390 Bridgetown CANA in English 1939 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Feb 12, CANA— Guyana and Venezuela have welcomed the release from jail of black South African leader Nelson Mandela. A joint statement issued at the end of two days of talks here between the foreign ministers of the two countries, said they "reviewed developments in South Africa and expressed their deep satisfaction over the release of Mr. Nelson Mandela." They also agreed that Mandela's release "constitutes an important step in the process towards the dismantling of the evil system of apartheid."

On Central America, the two ministers felt that everything should be done to strengthen the process of peace and dialogue in the region and they pledged the support of their governments to this end.

On the situation in Panama, they expressed the hope that it would be stabilised "so the people of Panama could return to a normal democratic life, in accordance with the principles of international law such as non-interference, non-intervention and self-determination." In this regard, Venezuela's Reinaldo Figueredo [foreign minister] told journalists at a press conference on Sunday [11 February] that before Venezuela could recognise the government in Panama, United States troops must first be withdrawn from Panamanian territory.

He said there was no justification, whatsoever, for the U.S. invasion of Panama and there were no extenuating circumstances that can make Venezuela depart from the principle on non-intervention.

The joint statement said that in reviewing the international situation, the two ministers analysed the role of multilateral institutions and stressed their importance to developing countries. In this context, they also expressed their support for the upcoming special sessions of the United Nations General Assembly on drugs and economic co-operation.

Minister Jackson and Figueredo also took note of the the growing co-operation between Latin America and the Caribbean Community [Caricom] and expressed their view that such co-operation augurs well for the integration process in the Latin America and Caribbean region.

The joint statement added: "They welcomed the efforts being made to work out the modalities by which co-operation could be intensified between Caricom and Latin America and in this regard recognised the importance of the meeting of senior officials from Caricom, Brazil, Colombia and Venezuela held in Caracas on the 12th and 13th January, 1990."

Suriname

Shankar Criticizes Army Officials' Remarks

FL1302175590 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Monitored in progress]

[Text] ... of the public accusations of Army leader Desi Bouterse [words indistinct] to arrangements. Bouterse

had accused the president of not ordering the arrangements to inform the National Assembly about obstacles within the peace process.

In a statement issued yesterday, the head of state said it is indecent when an institution insults government officials by making accusations for the media. The president referred to a letter which he had sent to the Ministry of Defense in [name indistinct] to which he strongly criticized public remarks by staff army officials in relation to state affairs. He highlighted the accusations by top army officials are considered to be undermining, provoking, and denigrating the authority.

According to President Ramsewak Shankar, the government showed a tolerant attitude toward this in order to realize a smooth transition to a pure civilian government. This tolerant attitude has given the government a negative image in the society, according to the president. The president finally stated that he had informed the National Assembly last Wednesday [7 Febtuary] according to his own views and responsibilities on the peace process in Suriname.